

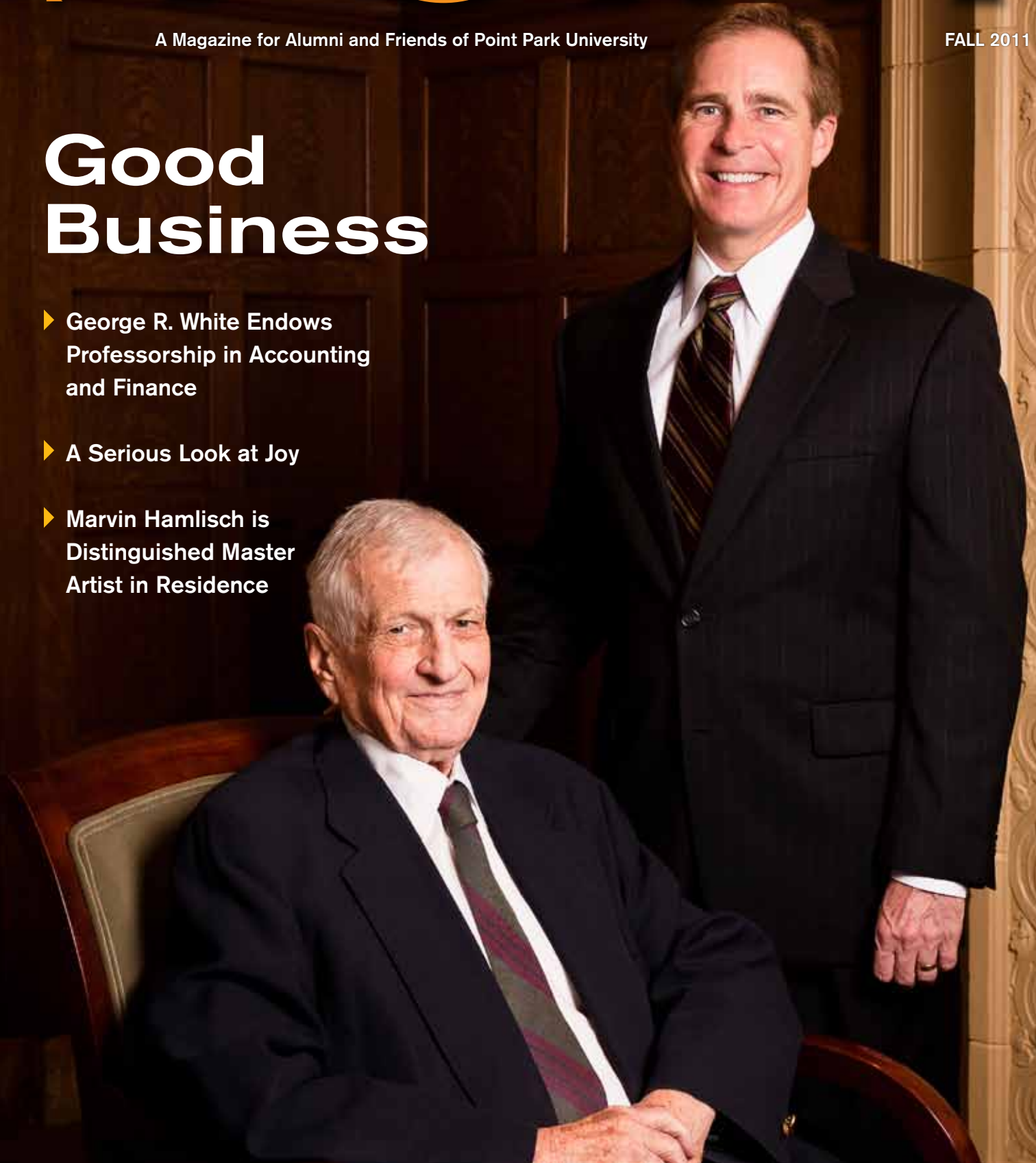
# THE POINT

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Point Park University

FALL 2011

## Good Business

- ▶ George R. White Endows Professorship in Accounting and Finance
- ▶ A Serious Look at Joy
- ▶ Marvin Hamlisch is Distinguished Master Artist in Residence





Dear alumni and friends,

September marks the arrival of back to school season, a time of transformation and great possibilities.

When our students and their families arrived on campus in August, they discovered the latest example of Point Park's ongoing metamorphosis. On the site of a former parking lot at the corner of Wood St. and the Boulevard of the Allies now stands a beautiful new park. This lively outdoor gathering spot features a colonnaded plaza with plantings, a fountain, and in the very near future trees and a new restaurant. These projects, along with the streetscape improvements to the Wood Street Corridor, welcome the whole city to the University's neighborhood.

One of Point Park's most devoted friends and neighbors is Downtown resident George R. White. A business leader, scientist and urban visionary, Dr. White's contributions to the University span the past two decades. A longtime champion of Point Park's transformative potential, he has been a University trustee since 1995. He provided support for the GRW Theatre in the University Center and the George Rowland White Performance Studio in the Dance building. And, with his wife Kathleen, he recently established the George R. White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance at the School of Business with a \$1 million bequest through their estate plan. This professor will lead a new Urban Accounting Initiative to encourage education in accounting and finance among young minority students.

Over the years the Whites' extraordinary generosity, together with Dr. White's ongoing role as a trusted adviser in Point Park's planning and growth, has had an enormous impact on the advancement of this University. He believes Point Park students are exceptional and truly reflect the distinctive qualities of our city. In his words, "it is in getting to know the students of Point Park that you truly appreciate the unique character of this University."

We salute the unique character of George R. White, and we're very fortunate to call him our neighbor and friend.

This fall, we invite you to come *Back to the 'Burgh* to enjoy a firsthand look at the latest changes in our four schools and campus neighborhood. We hope you'll join your friends and classmates at our alumni weekend celebration on Oct. 7-9.

You'll be amazed at the transformation.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan  
President

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**On the cover:**  
Point Park President Paul Hennigan joins George R. White in the University Center board room. White's \$1 million gift will establish a new professorship in the School of Business. Photo by Richard Kelly.

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### TALK TO US!

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

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**RIVERS OF STEEL AT POINT PARK UNIVERSITY**

The steel industry once defined Pittsburgh. Today, the region is recognized for its commitment to higher education, the arts, health care and technology. This fall, Point Park celebrates the region's rich industrial heritage and the intersection of past and present with two noteworthy exhibitions.

More than 25 paintings, drawings and sculptures will be on display in the Lawrence Hall Gallery Sept. 22 – Dec. 30, 2011. *Rivers of Steel at Point Park University* will feature works from the collections of Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, The Duquesne Club and TomaykoArts.

Visitors will enjoy a rare showing of The Duquesne Club's *Pittsburgh Mills and Barges at Night* by Aaron H. Gorson and works by Frank DeAndrea, John Shryock, Robert Qualters, Clyde Hare, Frank Vittor and other prominent artists. A majority of the selected pieces seldom travel from the Bost Building, the steel industry museum in Homestead, Pa. Point Park Trustee **John Tomayko**, Ph.D., an avid art collector, organized the show.



A student photographer at the Carrie Furnace

From Sept. 1 through Oct. 9, the Lawrence Hall Lobby will host a companion exhibit of photography by Point Park students and faculty. This show is the result of Professor **Chris Rolinson**'s digital photography class traveling in the spring of 2011 to the Carrie Furnace site, part of a once-thriving steel mill near Pittsburgh. The resulting art represents an interesting juxtaposition with works in the gallery that reflect the steel industry at its peak.

Both exhibitions are free and open to the public Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, call 412-392-8008 or visit [www.pointpark.edu](http://www.pointpark.edu).

Photo by Chris Rolinson.

**Professional Advancement**

**Dimitris J. Kraniou**, Ph.D., lectured at the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University on March 16 on the topic, "Economic Issues of Outer Space." On March 20, Kraniou was invited by The American Hellenic Foundation of Western Pennsylvania to discuss matters of immigration and migration that are affecting Greece, its economy, the European Union and Greek Society. The organization sponsored the Greek Film Soiree of the Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival. The festival's theme was "The Faces of Immigration."

**Nathan Firestone**, Ph.D, spoke on "America and Israel Amid the Revolutionary Middle East" at the Zionist Organization of America-Pittsburgh District in Squirrel Hill on March 31. He is a professor of political science at Point Park.

**Robert Skertich**, Ph.D, assistant professor in the School of Business, discussed the history of the Nike Missile site during a tour of the area (near Pittsburgh's North Park) on April 5. Attendees met at the nearby Allegheny County Police & Fire Academy and explored the Nike Missile site with flashlights.

**Michael Finnegan**, assistant professor and a former FBI agent, joined investigative reporter **Adam Goldman** on April 27 for a presentation at Point Park and the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania. The pair discussed their collaboration that began when the AP reporter started tracking down the story of Khalid Al-Jawary, convicted of placing powerful car bombs in New York City in 1973, which led to his deportation after serving his sentence in U.S. prisons in 2009. As a result the FBI reopened the

case against Al-Jawary. Finnegan worked on a team of intelligence agents who found and arrested Al-Jawary.

**Sheila McKenna** has been named chair of the theatre department in the Conservatory of Performing Arts. An assistant professor and Point Park alumna, McKenna is a versatile director and actress. She has appeared in numerous plays, including *King Lear* (The REP), *Footfalls* (Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre) and *Dog Face* (Quantum Theatre/Festival D'otono, Madrid). McKenna has directed the world premieres of Tammy Ryan's plays *Baby's Blues*, *The Gift of the Pirate Queen* and *FBI Girl* as well as other productions for The REP, Quantum Theatre and Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, including *The Room*, *Riders to the Sea* and *Shadow of the Glen*. She has also received the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's Performer of the Year honor.

**Fred Johnson**, dean of the Conservatory of Performing Arts, was a guest teacher last spring at one of Europe's top film schools, the Film and Television Academy of the Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague. His class focused on alternative storytelling. An experienced writer and director, Johnson is no stranger to the Czech Republic. In 2006, he screened his documentary *Brother Gordon* at the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Prague.

**Tony Grenek** is the new head women's basketball coach at Point Park. He has 10 years of experience on the college level and was associate head coach the last two years at NCAA Division II Seton Hill University, where he was instrumental in the Griffins reaching the division's national tournament in 2009-10. Grenek replaced **Sam Kosanovich**, who



Point Park Trustee Emeritus **Steve Stein** (BUS 1970) received an honorary degree at Commencement 2011. He was joined by other trustees (current and emeriti), friends and family after his speech at the Faculty Appreciation dinner in the Lawrence Hall ballroom prior to Commencement. Pictured left to right: Board of Trustees Chair **Nancy Washington**, **Denny Cestra** (trustee emeritus), **Annie Cestra**, **Dick Finley** (trustee emeritus), **Steve Stein**, **Alan Stein**, **Joann Stein**, **Carol Meese** and **Paul Meese** (trustee emeritus). Photo courtesy of Steve Stein.

stepped down to become the full-time director of Point Park's Student Center.

**Nelson Chipman**, assistant professor and chair of the Cinema and Digital Arts Department in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, presented the 2011 Finkelhor Lecture on April 13 in the Lawrence Hall ballroom. Chipman spoke on "The Future of Visual Storytelling." A faculty exhibition and reception followed.

**Robert Fessler**, Ph.D. professor in the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences, has been appointed acting dean in the School of Arts and Sciences, and **Ronald Allan-Lindblom**, artistic director of COPA and associate vice president, has been appointed acting dean in the School of Communication.

**Buildings Acquired for Academic Village**

Point Park has acquired two Downtown properties in order to advance plans for its Academic Village Initiative. The University purchased and will rehabilitate a three-story, 11,580 sq. ft. former fire house, at 344 Blvd. of the Allies, from the City of Pittsburgh to gain space to

▶ **FEEDBACK**

As co-chair of Point Park University's 50th anniversary celebration last year, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a weekend filled with camaraderie, reflection and optimism for a bright future. Alums ranging from "children of the 60s" to very recent grads were able to recall fond memories, rekindle relationships and toast Point Park, a University that is rapidly becoming an educational powerhouse. Since I attended Point Park in the early 1990s, I have witnessed just about every aspect of the University expand and improve. A few examples: the campus has grown to include four schools and nearly 20 buildings. There are now 101 undergraduate degrees and 12 graduate degrees (compared to a fraction of that in 1990). I would be remiss if I didn't mention that this very publication, *The Point*,

has evolved into first-rate publication that reaches out to alumni and friends throughout the world. I expect this year's *Back to the 'Burgh* alumni weekend on Oct. 7-9 to be every bit a celebration as last year. More than 400 people are expected to return for a weekend chock-full of activities. There'll be something for everyone: an open house at the University's new corner park, a street festival, a celebration dinner, campus tours, reunion sports, and much more. Come *Back to the 'Burgh* for what truly promises to be a celebration of this wonderful institution that we can proudly call our own. Hope to see you then.

*Susan Orr-McManigle (COM 1993)*  
Interim President, Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

*Back to The 'Burgh!* The 50th Anniversary celebration in 2010 was a wonderful event and brought many of our alumni together for the first time in years. I am excited for the opportunity to return to campus again on Oct. 7-9. During my years at Point Park, the campus was just two buildings and a bridge. The growth of the University is truly spectacular. I was very impressed with the current campus and the expansion plans. Anyone who has not taken a campus tour should be sure to do so this year. I look forward to seeing friends and faculty again in October.

*Nancy Davis-Kahrs (COM 1969, 1972)*



expand the adjacent Student Center (former YMCA building) into a new Student and Convocation Center. "Point Park's transformation plans are a key component in ensuring that Downtown's revitalization continues," Pittsburgh Mayor **Luke Ravenstahl** said in announcing the fire house transaction. "This is a terrific partnership that will allow for Point Park to continue their expansion plans Downtown, and at the same time, improve a facility that will be used by both the City and the University." The University also bought the former Honus Wagner Co. building on Forbes Ave. to facilitate plans to move the Pittsburgh Playhouse from Oakland to Downtown. Point Park previously bought several nearby parcels and eventually plans to build a new Playhouse complex with several theaters, teaching areas and a residence hall.

**Artist Selected for Mon Wharf Entrance**

Point Park and Riverlife have selected artist **Nobuho Nagasawa** to collaborate with Pittsburgh landscape architecture firm LaQuatra Bonci Associates to create a stronger pedestrian connection between the University's campus and the newly constructed Mon Wharf Landing linear park. The design team commission is funded by a grant from The Heinz Endowments. Born in Tokyo and based in New York City, Nagasawa's work involves in-depth research into cultural history and memory and involves extensive community participation. Nagasawa has been commissioned for more than 25 public art projects internationally, and has received numerous awards. She stated that her primary objective for the project is to work with the landscape architect to

"enhance the uniqueness of the site by acknowledging the cultural and natural history, and promoting greening and awareness of ecology." The entrance to the Mon Wharf is separated by a harsh urban edge of roadway, highway ramps and the intersection at the juncture of Wood Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard. The design team will mark and invigorate the entrance as a gateway that leads in one direction to the Mon Wharf Landing and in the other direction to campus.

**Stage AE Classroom Opens**

Students in the sport, arts and entertainment management (SAEM) program now have a unique opportunity to experience academic lessons in a real-world work environment. This fall, the University opened a new, 25-seat classroom at Stage AE on Pittsburgh's North Shore.



Stage AE

Students will learn in the dedicated classroom space and have proximity to internship and employment opportunities inside the venue. "Our collaboration with Stage AE serves as a learning laboratory for our students who will have the opportunity to participate in internship programs, employment opportunities and benefit from the on-site involvement of Stage AE leadership," said **Angela Isaac**, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business. The opening of the classroom is the culmination of months of collaboration between Point Park and Stage AE owners, PromoWest. According to **Steve Tanzilli**, director of the SAEM program, "We've always viewed Pittsburgh as an extension of our campus. With the opening of the classroom at Stage AE, we're able to offer our students a proximity to the industry that is unprecedented for this region, if not the country."

**Student, Grad Earn National Journalism Honors**

The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) hosted its Region 1 SPJ Spring Conference on April 9. During that time, the Region 1 Mark of Excellence Award winners for 2010 were announced. Point Park student **Faith Cotter** and recent graduate **Lucy Leitner** claimed first place for their Justice magazine piece, "No Remorse," in the Non-Fiction Magazine Article category. The publication, an annual magazine created by The Innocence Institute of Point Park University, also took third place in the Best Student Magazine category. Leitner

and Cotter advanced to the national round of judging, where they won the National Mark of Excellence Award in the Non-Fiction Magazine Article category.

**Student is Miss Pennsylvania 2011**

Point Park student **Juliann Sheldon** was crowned Miss Pennsylvania 2011 at the Syria Shrine in Cheswick, Pa. on June 19. An advertising and public relations major, Sheldon was one of 32 women from across Pennsylvania who competed in swimsuit, talent and evening wear categories. She performed a jazz dance. In addition to the title, Sheldon won a \$7,000 scholarship and will compete in January, 2012 in Las Vegas for the Miss America title. Until then, she is travelling the state to promote mental health awareness and the Children's Miracle Network.

**Point Park Swears in Police Force**

Point Park has hired five police officers for its Department of Public Safety. The officers have received municipal police training and have the full powers of law enforcement officers, according to **Jeffrey Besong**, public safety director and the new police chief. The officers have jurisdiction over Point Park's property and abutting streets and will coordinate with Pittsburgh police and other universities' police and public safety divisions. They can make arrests and perform the same duties as municipal officers.

**Mentoring Program in Wish Book**

The 2hours2change4life mentoring program, directed by **Molly McClelland**, student support specialist in the School of Arts and Sciences, has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 Pittsburgh Foundation Wish Book. Members of

the community have the opportunity to support the mentoring program through The Wish Book, which is online at [www.pittsburghfoundation.org/Wish\\_Book](http://www.pittsburghfoundation.org/Wish_Book).

**CSI Pittsburgh**

Craig Rechichar was looking for a unique birthday gift for his wife, Monica. He was surprised to find it at Point Park. Rechichar had the winning bid for the auction item "CSI Pittsburgh" at the University's annual "Brackets 101" fundraiser last March. Proceeds from the event benefit the Myron Cope Scholarship in the School of Communication. **Edward Strimlan**, M.D., visiting assistant professor and leader of Point Park's forensic science program, created "CSI Pittsburgh" for the auction. A former chief forensics investigator for Allegheny County, Strimlan drew upon two decades of experience processing more than 2,000 death crime scenes in creating "CSI Pittsburgh," an entertaining, hands-on version of CLUE for the Rechichars and their friends, hosted at the University's Crime Scene House on April 2.



Craig and Monica Rechichar and friends at "CSI Pittsburgh."

**Media Trip to Washington, D.C.**

Students and faculty from the School of Communication traveled to Washington, D.C., for three days last March to get an inside look at the communication industry. Students met media professionals,



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including the editor-in-chief of DC magazine, and examined moments in news history at the Newseum. A group of 22 students and five faculty members, **Heather Starr Fiedler, Dana Hackley, Bob O’Gara, Chris Rolinson** and **Tim Hudson**, took part in the sixth annual trip. Fiedler, trip coordinator and associate professor of multimedia, said the outing has a dual purpose. “Students get the experience of bonding with fellow students...and they also get to see how media works in a large city.” **Kalea Hall**, a journalism and multimedia major, said “The trip gave me a better understanding of what’s involved in becoming a professional in the field.”



**Graduation Celebration**

Commencement 2011 took on special meaning for **Gary DeJidas** (A&S 1972), president of GAI Consultants Inc., who addressed Point Park graduate degree recipients and received his own master of business administration degree on May 6. He is pictured here celebrating with fellow graduates, including many GAI managers who took part in the on-site M.B.A. program at the company headquarters in Homestead, Pa. Photo by (his son) Gary DeJidas/Good PictureTaker.com.



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**Ethical Leadership Panel**

Point Park joined with leaders from the Heinz Corporation on Aug. 4 in the Lawrence Hall ballroom to present a panel discussion on “Meeting the Challenge of Ethical Leadership, Corporate Governance, Risk Management, and Sustainability on a Global Scale.” The event, which attracted a large number of participants from the Downtown business community, was free and open to the public. **John Kraus**, vice president at Heinz, spoke about corporate governance, compliance and ethics; **James Traut**, director at Heinz, discussed enterprise reputation and risk management; and **Brian Shuttleworth**, director at Heinz, spoke on operational risk and sustainability. **Angela Isaac**, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business, presented opening remarks followed by a panel discussion hosted by **Karen McIntyre**, Ph.D., senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, and **Mike Haley**, Ph.D., associate professor and H.J. Heinz Endowed Chair of business management at Point Park. A Q&A session and networking event followed.

**Project Children LEAD**

Point Park presented Project Children LEAD (Learning Early to Appreciate Diversity), the University’s 6th Annual Multicultural Conference, on May 20. The conference gives educators and administrators a forum to explore new and innovative ways to improve multicultural education through interactive learning. The keynote speaker was **Lenny Schad**, chief information officer at Katy Independent School District in Texas. Participants were encouraged to visit the Social Media Lounge, where a Social Media and Related Technology (SMART)

team was on hand to assist attendees in creating a social media presence on such sites as LinkedIn, Twitter and Second Life.

**Trustees Elected**

**Jacqui Fiske Lazo** has been elected an emeritus member of the Board of Trustees at Point Park. Lazo is the leader of the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC Real Estate Practice Group and a member of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney’s board of directors. Lazo served as a trustee of the University from 1999 until 2009. She has been involved in the community for many years, most recently serving as the immediate past chair of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh board of trustees and is also a life trustee at the library. In addition she is a member of the International Women’s Forum executive committee. Lazo is the solicitor for the Public Parking Authority of Pittsburgh, and is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

**Edward A. Haberle** has been elected to the Board of Trustees at Point Park. Haberle is currently the director of North American sporting goods at Nike Inc. He has been with the company for 30 years. Haberle is a 1979 business graduate of Point Park University, where he played baseball, leading the Pioneers to two College World Series championships in 1978 and 1979. In 2003, Haberle was inducted into the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame.



Trustee emeritus Jacqui Fiske Lazo. Photo by Tom Bell.



Trustee Edward A. Haberle. Photo by Martha Rial.





# Employee Benefits

## Park project serves Downtown workers in more ways than one

by Cheryl Valyo

When Point Park introduces its much-anticipated new corner park to the public at an opening ceremony on Sept. 14, the campus and neighborhood community will have much to celebrate.

But beyond providing a beautiful new green space for the enjoyment of students, faculty, staff and Downtown workers, the project has already brought benefits to the numerous trade union craftsmen involved in the construction.

Throughout the past year, work on the park and the Wood Street Corridor project and related renovations to adjacent 100 Wood St. and Frontier Hall has utilized the skills and talents of dozens of specialized trade workers.

**“This is the kind of shovel-ready project that’s not only great for workers and the working class, but also great for the entire Downtown community.”**

By late spring and summer, “I’d estimate that an average of 30-40 people were working on various aspects of the project on any given day,” said Jim Saxon, project manager in the Physical Plant department at Point Park.

“Some examples include laborers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, steam fitters, sprinkler fitters, masons, bricklayers, steelworkers, painters, tile setters, roofers and landscapers,” said Saxon. “This has been a complex project on a very aggressive schedule — one that has involved almost all of the trades.”



### Job Opportunities

That’s been very good news for trade union employees, said Allegheny Council Labor Council (AFL-CIO) President Jack Shea.

“During an economic downturn like this one, it’s great to have projects that employ workers who have been extensively trained and are able to complete projects on time and on budget,” said Shea. “Projects like this one put a lot of people to work, no question about it.”

“This is the kind of shovel-ready project that’s not only great for workers and the working class, but also great for the entire Downtown community.”

According to John “JJ” Jackson III, field representative of Construction General Laborers Local Union #373, “As a person who lives in the city, I see a benefit in this project. Men are working to bring in revenue to the city. Without this project many workers would be on unemployment. Having this project is positive for the middle-class worker.”

Experienced bricklayer Anthony Conderato, who is accustomed to plying his trade from the heights of a scaffold or out on a swing, concurred. “This kind of project is very important for bricklayers,” he said.

Designers for the park are the architecture firm Tasso Katselas Associates (TKA) Inc. and Klavon Design, a landscape architecture firm. Massaro Corporation led construction on the park.

### A Community Asset

Massaro, which has managed construction for a variety of University building projects over the past several years, was eager to be involved in the park project, according to Steve

Massaro, vice president of business development.

“This project adds green space to Downtown Pittsburgh and Point Park’s campus,” said Massaro. “It’s not just a building project, it’s an asset for the entire Downtown community. We’re honored to be part of Point Park’s vision for its Academic Village.”

By the opening of the fall semester, the transformation of the former parking lot will be nearly complete. The distinctive new outdoor gathering spot features a welcoming plaza with a colonnade that wraps the sides of two University buildings: the Boulevard Apartments and 100 Wood St.

The south colonnade, which culminates in a striking stair tower featuring a granite fountain on the lower level, leads into a new restaurant (opening later this year) on the lower level of 100 Wood St. River Birch trees will be planted (when weather permits) later this fall.

The new park, along with the streetscape improvements, represents a very visible gesture to the Downtown community, according to University Architect Elmer Burger.

“These projects welcome the whole city to our campus and the University’s neighborhood.”

*Opposite: Construction on the new park and restaurant in full swing in summer 2011. This page: Bricklayer Anthony Conderato works high above campus. A bird’s eye view of construction on the colonnade next to the Boulevard Apartments. All photos, and additional reporting, by Chris Rolinson.*





# Giving Back in Our Backyard

From planting along Pittsburgh riverfronts to serving the elderly, students, faculty and staff join together at Pioneer Community Day

Anna Rhodes was inspired to do more community service after attending the Point Park Honors Program's alternative spring break trip to New York City last year.

Michael Potoczny recognized a need for community service within the University.

Rhodes got her chance for additional service work after Potoczny worked with United Student Government (USG) and other members of the University community to organize Pioneer Community Day on April 9, a one-day event that provided students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to participate in various community service projects Downtown and around Pittsburgh.

About 167 Point Park people pitched in.

"Pittsburgh is our campus, and what better way to get students involved in the community than by giving back to it," said Potoczny, president of USG last year and a senior applied history major. "We invited the entire Point Park community, including alumni. Then we started communicating with different charities, nonprofits and organizations to procure projects around the Pittsburgh area."

## Boots on the Ground

Liam Cooney, manager of Kayak Pittsburgh and representative for Venture Outdoors, was grateful for the volunteers. "Once the season picks up, we never have free hours to just paint a wall or clean the dock off so this is very helpful. Point Park is the first group to contact us and ask to volunteer," said Cooney. "The fact that students and staff [did] this on a Saturday morning meant a lot to me."

"I feel great about what we have done," said Rhodes, who helped paint the wall. "I think Pioneer Community Day should become a tradition."

Other projects included serving residents at Meadowcrest Nursing Center, painting at the Northside YMCA and the Pittsburgh Zoo, and cleaning up the riverfront with Friends of the Riverfront.



"I think Pioneer Community Day should become a tradition."



## A Day to Make a Difference

Opposite: Volunteers register for Pioneer Community Day on April 9 in Lawrence Hall. Student Micky Haney paints a wall at the Northside YMCA. "I love volunteering. It's great to be part of the community and help out," she said. This page, clockwise from top left: Students walk toward planting duties along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Randi Fetzer and Ian Sulkowski pick up gloves to plant trees. Anna Berish (left), Shaleen Young (center) and Michael Dudley gather shovels. Fetzer and friends begin planting a tree. A group of volunteers tackle a hillside planting project with Friends of the Riverfront. Jeffrey Bergman (green shirt, center) of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy helps students wrangle a tree into the ground. All photos and additional reporting by Chris Rolinson.







by Cheryl Valyo

# Good Business

## George R. White Endows New Professorship in Accounting and Finance with \$1 Million Bequest

Longtime University benefactors George and Kathleen White have established the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance at Point Park University's School of Business with a \$1 million bequest through their estate plan.

With this bequest, together with prior cumulative gifts from the couple, the Whites become the second largest benefactors in the history of the University. George White has been a member of the Board of Trustees at Point Park since 1995.

The new professor will lead a new Urban Accounting Initiative to encourage education and careers in accounting and finance, particularly among young minority students.

"I absolutely believe in Point Park University," said George White. "We want to help the University meet current challenges while preparing for the future."

### An Eye for Business and the Arts

The Whites, who are committed to the economic and cultural vitality of the city and the campus, have previously provided support for such projects as the George Rowland White Performance Studio in the Dance Complex on the Boulevard of the Allies and the GRW Theater in the University Center.

"I believe it is mandatory for Point Park to develop a first-class business school," said White, a former Xerox executive who has a Ph.D. in nuclear physics and served on the faculty of the Harvard

School of Business. "It will also add to the vitality of Downtown Pittsburgh and the business community."

He and his wife Kathleen, who was among the first female students to earn an engineering degree at Purdue University, became Downtown residents when White was recruited to lead what is now the University of Pittsburgh Applied Research Facility in Harmar Township, Pa. "We fell in love with Pittsburgh," said White, "and we have lived at the Point ever since."

White became involved at Point Park as an adjunct professor and has fond memories of teaching several business courses on campus. "It is in getting to know the students of Point Park that you truly appreciate the unique character of this University," he said.

### A Wise Investment Strategy

"George and Kathy have been remarkable benefactors and supporters of the School of Business," said Dean Angela Isaac. "I have valued George's time, energy and intellect as we've been shaping the growth and potential of the School.

"George is so very bright and he thinks in multiple dimensions," Isaac said. "He knows the Pittsburgh business community well, and he is so unabashedly in love with this city, that his passion and enthusiasm — in combination with his extraordinary generosity — have made it possible for us to have a faculty member dedicated to advancing the practice of finance and accounting in Pittsburgh, particularly among young minority students."

One of the first projects in the new Urban Accounting Initiative will be a University collaboration with Manchester Academic Charter School

in which middle school-age students will explore the fields of accounting and finance. The program will be led by educator and civic leader Herman L. Reid Jr., who served for three decades as the executive director of the Negro Educational Emergency Fund (NEED) in Pittsburgh.

There has been declining enrollment and interest among minorities in finance and accounting as a profession

**"Over the years the Whites' extraordinary generosity, together with Dr. White's ongoing role as a trusted adviser in Point Park's strategic planning and growth, has had an enormous impact on the advancement of this University," said President Paul Hennigan.**

over the past decade, according to Isaac. Yet the U.S. Bureau of Labor has identified accounting as one of the fastest growing professions, largely due to industry and regulatory concerns over financial accuracy, transparency and reliability.

"The new professorship will also contribute to the advancement of the School of Business as a thought leader and catalyst for debate in our community," said Isaac. "Through active engagement of business and community leaders, our goal is to address emerging business needs in these key disciplines as well as identify opportunities for transformational business practices."

White said he also hopes the bequest will encourage other friends and alumni to consider supporting the University's long-term growth through estate planning (learn more about the Founders Society on page 32). "Point Park's Academic Village initiative is a profoundly wise investment," he said.

"My hope is that others will be inspired to make bequests and similar types of planned gifts. We would like to set a precedent."



Opposite: George R. White. Left: Point Park President Paul Hennigan meets with White in the University Center. Photos by Richard Kelly.





# Leadership in Special Education

## Point Park in forefront of preparing teachers through new programs, community partnerships

by Colleen C. Derda

On-site observation is a key component of Point Park's new Autism Spectrum Disorders course.

Students study the causes, characteristics and treatments of autism disorders, then travel to the Watson Institute in Sewickley, Pa., to observe children with autism and collect data about teaching strategies, positive behavior guidance, family interactions and more.

Graduate student Annamarie Casciato says she was fascinated by the process of collecting behavioral data. "At [Watson's] Education Center, we observed students ages 14 and up and documented the antecedent, or what led to a student's change in behavior. Then we recorded the behavior observed, and finally the consequence."

Collecting and analyzing "ABC" data helps students identify behaviors and interventions used to improve the attention, language and social skills of children with autism, says Marilyn Hoyson, chief operating officer of the Watson Institute and an adjunct professor at Point Park.



### Dual Certification Option

Hoyson began teaching the course last year as the Department of Education initiated a dual certification option for undergraduates, which enables students to pursue Pennsylvania's new requirements for special education certification along with initial teaching certification. Students may specialize in either pre-kindergarten through grade eight, or grades seven through 12.

Point Park is one of only 13 schools in the state approved for special education at the secondary level leading to certification at the same time as teaching certification. In addition, the University is one of the few to offer the programs over four years, including the student teaching practicum.

### New M.Ed. in Special Education

This fall Point Park enrolls the first cohort of teachers in the M.Ed. in special education leading to Pennsylvania certification. The new master's offers advanced training in teaching special needs students.

Interest in the programs has been strong, says Darlene Marnich, Ph.D., education department chair.

"Special education teachers and general education teachers increasingly work together in general education classrooms as schools become more inclusive, so this training is crucial," says Marnich, "It enhances the skills of all, now that teachers and school districts are facing new challenges due to state funding reductions."

Graduate student Kristen Weaver, who has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Point Park and is a group supervisor at the Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood

Development Center, says she is confident the M.Ed. in special education will make her more marketable in the future. "I know that having the degree will make me a better teacher, whether I am working in a regular classroom or special education setting."

"Point Park graduates will certainly be welcomed by public and private school principals looking for the most qualified teachers with special education certification," says J. Kaye Cupples, Ph.D., associate professor of special education.

Cupples has 34 years of experience in special education teaching and administration in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and leadership roles with such organizations as the Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center. Upon joining the University, Cupples worked with faculty and community and agency experts to design the undergraduate and graduate programs and used his extensive network to expand professional collaborations.

### Partnerships Enrich Learning

Partnerships with organizations such as the Watson Institute enrich learning and provide students with multiple perspectives, he says. For example, this fall an Allegheny Intermediate Unit professional will lead Point Park graduate students in a new assistive technology course.

Other courses in the master's program include a class on high incidence disabilities, taught by an educator with extensive experience in all three categories: learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities and emotional disturbances. As in other courses, students will explore the importance of family partnerships and the roles that collaboration and communication play in children's Individualized Education

Program (IEP) plans.

"The goal is to prepare Point Park students to demonstrate they have met the competencies the state has outlined, and that they are each prepared to take over a special education class," Cupples says. The graduate program, he notes, allows for students to undertake specialized research and gain experience in specific areas.

### A Model for Educators

Point Park is providing a model for other universities across the state. The Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), which assists the state's Bureau of Special Education, invited Point Park to give a presentation on its program at the organization's meetings last year. PaTTAN also awarded the University \$60,000 in grants to increase community collaborations and produce publications about the new programs.

Point Park's 36-credit M.Ed. is structured to fit the schedules of educators and professionals and provides a means for teachers to acquire the credits needed to obtain Level 2 certification. The program prepares teachers more fully to meet the challenges of today's inclusive schools, says Marnich.

"The teaching strategies learned in the special education program will positively serve all students. These teachers will be an asset to any school district and, as such, will definitely be more marketable."

*Opposite: Point Park students observe children at the Watson Institute. Photos by Martha Rial.*





# Exploring Joy

## Professor Brent Robbins delves into the science of happiness

by Nancy Commella

Visit your favorite bookstore, in person or online, and search for titles about depression; more than 21,000 are on Amazon.com. Now look for titles about feeling joy; 158 are on Amazon. What makes you joyful? Is it similar for everyone? How do you attain joy? Questions like these, and the lack of research, led **Brent Robbins**, Ph.D., director of Point Park's psychology program, to begin to study "joy" in 1998. He completed his dissertation on it, has been exploring the subject ever since, and is writing a book to (ultimately) help people find it. The Point talked with Dr. Robbins about his research:

### What prompted you to study joy?

**BR:** In my first-year doctoral program, this 21-year-old woman comes in. When it's the first day, you ask what the presenting problem is: 'What brings you here?' First thing out of her mouth was 'I don't have any joy in my life.' That was how she presented her problem. My first thought was, I never heard that before. My second thought was, I don't know what you are supposed to do in therapy to help people find joy. *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* doesn't say anything about joy deficit disorder. There's depression, there's anxiety disorders, there's schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, but nothing about joy. There's nothing about how to have a better life, how to build your strengths. It's all about how to get rid of symptoms.

### What have you learned in your research to define joy?

**BR:** Joy seems to include both elation on one hand and relaxed serenity on the other. When you ask people to describe times when they felt joy, you

get something along that continuum. Some people talk about hanging out with friends by the campfire, feeling at home, relaxed and at peace. Others talk about the buildup in tension: the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl or they're walking with their boyfriend and he turns around and proposes suddenly. There's this tension, then 'boom,' the surprise, and then there's elation. They are not thinking about what's coming next, they're not thinking about what's happened. They're completely in that present moment.

### You believe there is a connection between meditation and joy?

**BR:** Depression and anxiety is almost the antithesis of joy. It's when people get caught up in their thoughts. When people describe doing meditation, and having those moments of feeling fully present in the moment, it's almost indistinguishable from what people describe when they talk about joy, especially the serene version of joy. Really what people are looking for, when they're looking to be healed of their suffering, is not so much getting rid of their symptoms but to cultivate a life of joy.

### You stated, "If joy becomes a goal in and of itself, it becomes strangely elusive." Why?

**BR:** It goes back to the time consciousness of joy, the temporality of joy. It's about being present in the moment. A goal is something that's happening in the future. So if you say, 'I'm going to work on having joy in the future,' you're already out of the present moment.

### Can someone be joyful alone?

**BR:** Yes, very much so. We were just doing joy experiences in my Methods class, and one of the students was talking about dancing in the rain by herself, a wonderful image. When people have a state of joy, they feel emotionally connected to people in their lives, even when they're not physically present. That's an important distinction. You can experience joy when you're physically alone, but I think it's really hard to feel it when you're lonely. And you can be lonely in a room full of people.

### You also noted, for adults, joy is rare. Why?

**BR:** I think what happens is when you're an adult, you have a lot of responsibilities, you have children, you have jobs. At any particular moment in time, it's very difficult to be fully present in the moment because there's always something else that needs to be done.

### What gives you joy?

**BR:** My sons, my wife. Having kids can be the most stressful moments of our lives, but it's also the moments of the greatest joy.

*Opposite: Brent Robbins at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. Photo by Martha Rial.*

**Point Extra**  
Read more about Dr. Robbins' research and how he ultimately helped his patient. Visit [www.pointpark.edu/News/ThePoint](http://www.pointpark.edu/News/ThePoint)



The fall arts season is in full swing at Point Park, as the Conservatory of Performing Arts welcomes renowned composer and conductor Marvin Hamlisch as Distinguished Master Artist in Residence, and the University's theatre and dance companies initiate a record number of premieres and other productions.

"We are pleased to announce that among our guest artists this year, Marvin Hamlisch will share his knowledge of musical theatre and film with Point Park students," says Ronald Allan-Lindblom, associate vice president and artistic director of the Conservatory of Performing Arts and the Pittsburgh Playhouse. "Hamlisch's career is without equal. Our students will learn from his experiences first hand through workshops on campus and at the Playhouse."

On Oct. 17, Hamlisch will host *The Art of the Audition* at the George R. White Performance Studio. He presents *The Works and Imagination of Marvin*

*Hamlisch* on Dec. 13 in the Rockwell Theatre at the Playhouse, a special event open to the University and select guests. Another workshop for Conservatory students on Jan. 27 will focus on music in films.

### Renowned Composer and Conductor

Hamlisch is principal pops conductor for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony and Pops, Seattle Symphony and San Diego Symphony. As a composer he has won three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony and three Golden Globe awards. He wrote the music for *A Chorus Line* and *They're Playing Our Song* on Broadway. Hamlisch's residency at Point Park is made possible by the Gerald E. McGinnis Endowment.

The Conservatory Theatre Company opens its season in October with *A Chorus Line*. The company's fall productions also include *Illyria*, the

musical retelling of *Twelfth Night* in November, followed by a production of Shakespeare's comedy in December. In the spring, the company offers a world premiere, *Marathon 33 (M33)*, and a folk drama, *Dark of the Moon*.

### Distinguished Guest Artists

The University's professional company, The REP, welcomes a record number of guest artists this year. Acclaimed Hollywood producer, director and screenwriter Robert A. Miller returns to Point Park as Distinguished Master Artist in Residence. Miller directs the world premiere of *A Child's Guide to Heresy* by Kendrew Lascelles that opens the season. Lascelles, who writes plays, musical revues, screenplays and novels, will be part of the cast as well.

Playwright Tammy Ryan will be at the Playhouse for the Pittsburgh premiere of her *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods*, a show the New York Times called "remarkably touching." And continuing its role as a laboratory for new works, in the spring The REP welcomes Eric Burns, playwright and author, plus writer Bruce J. Robinson.

The Conservatory Dance Company offers a record number of productions this season, beginning with the annual *Student Choreography Project* followed by *Contemporary Choreographers*, featuring innovative works choreographed by Sidra Bell, Alan Hineine, Alan Obuzor and Darrell Moultrie.

And, new this holiday season, the Playhouse will host *The Jazz Nutcracker*. Point Park's own Doug Bentz, master teacher of contemporary jazz dance, choreography and partnering, choreographs this unique take on the holiday favorite. The production also features the Benny Benack Big Band.

## University hosts record number of premieres and productions

by Colleen C. Derda

Left: Marvin Hamlisch.



# POINT PARK UNIVERSITY'S PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE



## ON STAGE THRU DECEMBER

For subscription and ticket information on these performances, and further details on other productions coming up in spring, 2012, visit [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com) or contact the Box Office at 412-392-8000.

### The REP

World Premiere

#### *A Child's Guide to Heresy*

By Kendrew Lascelles

Directed by Robert A. Miller

Rauh Theatre

September 9 - 25, 2011

Pittsburgh Premiere

#### *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods*

By Tammy Ryan

Directed by Sheila McKenna

Studio Theatre

September 30 - October 16, 2011

### Conservatory Theatre Company

#### *A Chorus Line*

Conceived and Originally Directed and  
Choreographed by Michael Bennett

Book by James Kirkwood and

Nicholas Dante

Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by Edward Kleban

Rockwell Theatre

October 21 - 30, 2011

#### *Illyria*

Book, Music and Lyrics by Peter Mills

Adapted by Peter Mills and Cara Reichel

from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Directed by Scott Wise

Choreographed by Jeremy Czarniak

Rauh Theatre

November 11 - 20, 2011

#### *Twelfth Night*

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Bridget Connors

Rauh Theatre

December 9 - 18, 2011

### Conservatory Dance Company

#### *Student Choreography Project*

George R. White Performance Studio

Point Park University campus

September 30 - October 2, 2011

#### *Contemporary Choreographers*

George R. White Performance Studio

Point Park University campus

December 2 - 4 and  
December 9 - 11, 2011

#### *The Jazz Nutcracker*

Choreography by Doug Bentz

Rockwell Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

December 9 - 11, 2011

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Receive 50% off regular ticket prices!  
Visit or call the Box Office at  
412-392-8000 for more information.



**Working professionals embrace online certificates in public administration and adult education and administration**

by Colleen C. Derda

# Certificate Programs Now Online

Point Park has long offered the flexibility of online classes. For the first time, starting this fall, the University presents two fully online programs.

Students are already enrolled in the new certificate in public administration and the post-baccalaureate certificate in adult education and administration, both 100 percent online. These 18-credit programs can be completed in one year and provide knowledge and credentials to enable career-minded adults to advance in their professions.

"The new certificates respond to specific professional development needs of adults in these fields and deliver quality learning in an online format," says Diane Maldonado, associate vice president for academic and student affairs.

Point Park created an e-learning advisory committee of faculty and staff to assess the University's ability to provide quality online programs. After a rigorous curriculum review, both online certificates were submitted for state and regional accreditation. The Pennsylvania Department of Education and Middle States Commission on Higher Education approved the programs in spring 2011.

Karen Hall, director of e-learning, says the certificates reflect essential elements of the University's strategic plan, which calls for development of online programs that meet the educational needs of professionals. "Point Park already offers a variety of online undergraduate and graduate courses. Completely online programs are an important next step in meeting the needs of working adults," she says.

## Certificate in Public Administration

Robert Skertich, assistant professor in the School of Business, teaches courses in the online certificate in public administration. The format and content appeals to people working in public safety, nonprofit organizations, and local, state and federal government, he says, as well as private sector employees who manage government contracts.



"Research shows that demand for public sector employment will continue to grow," according to Skertich. "We are seeing strong interest from public safety workers and other professionals looking to move up in their careers."

According to United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projections for 2010 – 2018, overall employment in the federal government will increase by 9.5 percent, state and local government by 8.4 percent, and nonprofit organizations by 14.1 percent. Public worker retirements will also create new opportunities.

The certificate can stand alone to enhance careers or serve as a segue to an associate degree in public administration or bachelor's degree in public administration to be completed on campus.

The design of the online programs promotes student to student, and student to instructor, engagement for maximum learning. The online course management system, Blackboard 9.1 Enterprise, provides students with effective tools to interact individually and collaborate in groups.

The certificate program includes three required courses and three electives. Students can choose courses in personnel management, budget and finance, disaster management, and more.

Not all of the courses are new. For example, for several years the Introduction to Public Administration course has been offered online as part of the associate and bachelor's degree programs. Other courses that have been long been taught in a traditional format will now be available online too.

## Certificate in Adult Education and Administration

The online certificate in adult education and administration also builds upon years of classroom success. For the past decade these courses have been offered face-to-face as part of the Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction.

As a post-baccalaureate program, the stand-alone adult education and administration certificate is designed for professionals who already have a bachelor's degree and seek specific knowledge in adult education and administration. Prospective students may be responsible for training or professional development and want to advance to administrative positions. Others may want to enter the field of adult education in a range of employment settings.

The program can benefit professionals such as postsecondary teachers, adult literacy and remedial education teachers, self-enrichment education teachers, and vocational instructors. The certificate also serves those who are required to provide training in such areas as business, community development, health care, social services, corrections and the military.

Adult education employment is also growing at a "faster than average" rate, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. A 9 percent to 32 percent increase is projected in the next seven years.

The six courses in the adult education and administration program focus on administration, supervision and leadership in adult education settings. Students take one course at a time (in each seven-week period) to enable deeper understanding of the content. Successful completion of course work results in the stand-alone post-baccalaureate certificate. Credits can also be applied toward the master's degree program in curriculum and instruction (which must be completed on campus).

## Enrollment Open

Please contact the Office of Graduate and Adult Enrollment at 412-392-3808 for more information on both new certificate programs.

Point Park alumni are eligible for a tuition discount of \$50/credit.

*Above: Assistant Professor Robert Skertich leads the online certificate program in public administration. Photo by Martha Rial.*







By Cristina Rouvalis

# Big Wheel

Alumnus Rich Pegher leads internal audit at multinational Goodyear

Long before he became a globe-trotting executive for multinational corporations, Rich Pegher (BUS 1974) was a teenager from Pittsburgh's Carrick neighborhood watching his college dream fade.

The oldest of five boys, he was a solid student and a standout in math. But during his senior year of high school, his father delivered some sobering news.

"You can go to college if you want," said Frederick Pegher, a printer. "But I am sorry. We can't afford to pay a dime." The financial picture seemed so hopeless that young Pegher resigned himself to earning \$4 an hour as a printer, working alongside his father. Then his guidance counselor at St. Basil High School told him about Point Park College, a junior college in downtown Pittsburgh that had recently converted to a four-year school. Point Park offered financial aid to promising students in need. Would Pegher consider applying?

A few months later, Pegher was a college freshman, commuting to campus by trolley. Two months into his first semester, his father died.

Devastated, Pegher told his mother he was dropping out of school to support the family. "Absolutely not," she said. "It was your father's dream that you go to college."

## Akron and Beyond

A printer's dream has propelled his oldest son to a career neither could have imagined. Pegher is vice president of internal audit for The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company based in Akron, Ohio. Auditing might sound dry, yet

Pegher's work is anything but. He recently visited Goodyear operations in Sweden and China and recently returned from Brazil.

Pegher loves seeing the world. "I'm incredibly fortunate to be able to conduct business in Europe three to four times a year," he says, "and to be able to go to China twice a year."

He also likes the challenge of being an internal auditor. "It is very important work that nobody sees," he said. "We provide assurances that management is adequately assessing and managing risks facing the business. We help management run it better."

He credits much of his success to his instructors at Point Park. Many were working professionals who taught 7 a.m. classes before heading to the office.

## Moving Forward

His advanced accounting teacher, Jim Richards of Price Waterhouse, pulled strings with his company to secure interviews for a few exceptional students. At 21, an elated Pegher joined Price Waterhouse in Pittsburgh as an auditor. "It was the turning point in my career," he said.

In 1980, Pegher moved on to defense giant Rockwell International, a key contractor of NASA. He worked his way up to director of special investigations, probing cases of alleged fraud and contract abuse.

On Jan. 28, 1986, Pegher went out to lunch, only to return to an office in crisis. The space shuttle Challenger had just exploded. Because Rockwell was a major contractor on the Challenger



project, Pegher flew to Houston to investigate the tragedy.

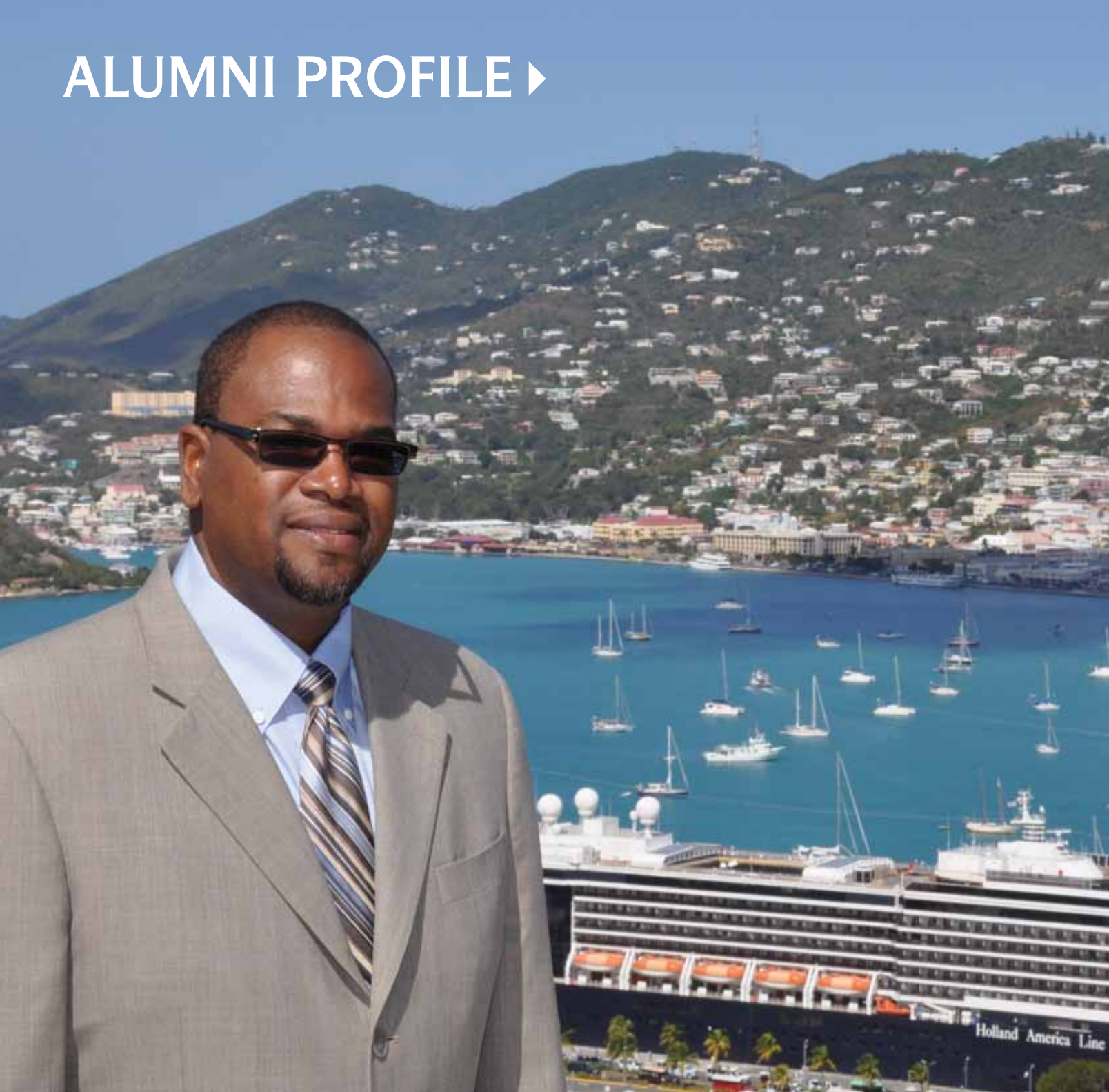
Though Rockwell had built much of the shuttle and readied it for launch, another company had manufactured the solid rocket boosters that failed soon after takeoff. Even so, the Challenger investigation was the most wrenching of Pegher's career. "We were responsible for training those astronauts," he said. "Our people knew them as neighbors and friends."

Pegher also worked for auto parts supplier ArvinMeritor Inc. and XM Satellite Radio before joining Goodyear in 2008. "We have \$19 billion in sales," he said of Goodyear. "We are the biggest tire manufacturer in North America."

Pegher has been married to his wife, Judith, for 37 years and has two grown children. Father and son are former Scouts, and Pegher serves as treasurer of his local Boy Scouts of America Council. "The Boy Scouts formed my character."

Opposite and above: Rich Pegher at Goodyear headquarters in Akron, Ohio. Photos by Jim Judkis.





By Cristina Rouvalis

## Smooth Sailing

Alumnus Gershwin Sprauve orchestrates flow of cruise ships through Caribbean's busiest port

With a name like Gershwin Sprauve (BUS 1987), he seemed destined to be a maestro.

His unusual first name is a blend of Gerwain, his father's name, and Gershwin, the renowned American composer. True to his namesake, he trained as a classical pianist during his childhood on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas. Along the way, he picked up the violin, French horn, trumpet and clarinet.

But after spending a summer at the famed Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, the 15-year-old knew music would be a hobby, not a career. He had a better idea. "I am going to be a businessman," he told his family.

His grandmother Eunice wanted to know whether he had the mettle for enterprise. So she challenged him to sell a quarter acre of family property on St. John. To her amazement, the teen closed a \$15,000 sale a few weeks later. "I guess you have the skills to be a businessman," she said.

Indeed.

Today Sprauve is chief operating officer of The West Indian Company Ltd., St. Thomas' primary cruise port. The business basics he learned at Point Park now help him manage a steady flow of ships carrying sun-starved tourists. Despite the global recession, his port attracts two million passengers annually, making it the Caribbean's number-one cruise destination.

Because St. Thomas offers a generous duty-free allowance of \$1,600 per person — it's a mecca for American shopaholics. Sprauve manages

the Havensight Shopping Mall, a 300,000-square-foot complex featuring shops and such attractions as an exotic butterfly farm.

### Working in Paradise

Sprauve, 45, works and lives a short drive from the beach. Most days, he looks out his window at a clear, blue sky. "Oh, it's probably 80 degrees," he said of the current weather. When life is one gorgeous day after another, there's no need to check the forecast.

Sprauve experienced his first northern winter as a college freshman, after a recruiter from Point Park College visited the island. Pittsburgh had always held an allure for young Sprauve, because his beloved fifth-grade teacher was a native of the city.

Point Park's Downtown campus was a good fit — small enough that he didn't feel lost and diverse enough that he blended in. His college friends hailed from Asia, Haiti and Africa. Even the snow seemed magical.

He took a work-study job, assisting performing arts professor Shirley Barasch, who was establishing a choir. She was immediately struck by the tall, soft-spoken youth who seemed wise beyond his years. "You couldn't have asked for a better assistant or friend," said Barasch, now a professor emeritus. "He had a real talent for working with people."

After graduation, Sprauve spent several years working for the territorial government of the U.S. Virgin Islands. He served as an investigative accountant for the Department of Justice, senior grants analyst for the



Office of Management and Budget, tax auditor for the Department of Labor and other posts.

Next he moved to the private sector, becoming assistant treasurer for the luxury retail giant Little Switzerland Inc. before joining The West Indian Company.

### Community Leader

Sprauve, who volunteers for the Boy Scouts and United Way, also owns a development firm specializing in St. Thomas and St. John properties.

On a recent visit to St. John, he happened to run into the businessman he had sold his grandmother's land to some 30 years ago. The buyer had never regretted paying the teenage boy \$15,000 for that land.

Turns out, it was a good investment.

*Opposite: Gershwin Sprauve on the job in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.*

*Above: Sprauve with Professor Emeritus Shirley Barasch at Point Park's 50th Anniversary Celebration in fall 2010.*

*Photo by Tom Bell.*



# ALUMNI CONNECTION ▶



Following the 50th Anniversary celebration last year, the question we heard most often was, "When are you going to do it again?"

While we can't do another 50th Anniversary, we have scheduled another weekend for alumni to come back and celebrate their Point Park experience. Please plan to join us October 7-9. See page 34 or visit [www.pointpark.edu/alumni](http://www.pointpark.edu/alumni) for more information.

Last year, as I met and talked to alumni from all eras, two themes were common in almost every discussion: pride in the Point Park experience, and a deep connection to individual faculty.

So, this year we are making a concerted effort to invite former, retired and current faculty to attend a Celebration Dinner on Saturday, October 8. We have posted a list of faculty already confirmed at [www.pointpark.edu/alumni](http://www.pointpark.edu/alumni), and we will keep updating the list. If there is someone you are particularly interested in seeing again and his or her name is not on the list, let us know, and we will do everything we can to bring that professor back.

We also want to hear about your Point Park experience. The University has begun an intensive review of its core curriculum and co-curricular activities. Central to the review is addressing the question, "What does it mean to have a Point Park education." We need alumni to help us answer that question. What do you value about your experience? What would you change? How would you make it better?

Throughout Alumni Weekend there will be opportunities to record your impressions and opinions about your experience inside and outside of the classroom.

Point Park alumni have many reasons to be proud. Come back and share your pride with friends and faculty.

Sincerely,

Rick Haskins (COM 1971)  
Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations

## Share your Point Park experience with the next generation of Pioneers.

As a member of the Pioneer Alumni Recruitment Team (P.A.R.T.), you will help prospective students make informed decisions about attending Point Park. Your volunteer efforts will ensure quality students continue to attend the University.

### Interested in reaching out to prospective students?

Call Alumni Relations at 412-392-4204 or visit [www.pointpark.edu/alumni/PART](http://www.pointpark.edu/alumni/PART)



**Be P.A.R.T. of the Action!**

# CLASS NOTES ▶



Tony Award-winner Rob Ashford (COPA 1983), who earned two 2011 Tony nominations for his work as director and choreographer of the Broadway production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, rehearses with lead actor Daniel Radcliffe. Photos by Ari Mintz/The Hartman Group.

### ▶ 1970s

**Malcolm Woodall** (A&S 1971) has been appointed director of development at Lyford Cay International School (LCIS) in Nassau, Bahamas. He was previously vice president of development at Wesleyan College, N.C., and held positions at Lewis University, Loyola University and East Carolina University. Woodall earned his bachelor's degree in English at Point Park.

**Rich Herman** (COM 1976) was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame at a ceremony last June in Marco Island, Fla. A longtime sports information director at Clarion University, Herman was a Point Park baseball player from 1972-76 and helped lead the Pioneers' first-ever trip to the NAIA World Series in 1974. CoSIDA also presented Herman with a Berg Award, which honors him as the top sports information director in the college division. He is the president of NCAA Division II CoSIDA.

### ▶ 1980s

**Gregory Funk** (COPA 1986) was part of a team nominated for a 2011 Academy Award for Best Makeup for work on the film *The Way Back*. Directed by Peter Weir

and starring Colin Farrell and Ed Harris, the 2010 war drama traces the epic saga of a group of prisoners who escape from a Siberian gulag during World War II. It was the first Oscar nomination for Funk, an Emmy Award-winner who earned his bachelor's degree in film and video production.

**Randy Skubek** (COM 1980) has been named a lifetime member of *Cambridge Who's Who of Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs*. A lifelong resident of Latrobe, Pa., Skubek joined the Latrobe Bulletin three decades ago, just five days after graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communication. Sports editor since 1992, he writes articles and oversees layout of the sports pages. As a Point Park student, Skubek was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* (1979-80) and *Outstanding Young Men of America* (1980-81). He was also honored as an Outstanding Journalism and Mass Communication Graduate at Point Park. Skubek supports the University's Annual Fund and the V Foundation for cancer research. He is also a member of the U.S. Lighthouse Society.

**Tom Rocco** (COPA 1988) presented a master class last March for **Deana Muro's** (BUS 2003) cabaret class in the

Conservatory of Performing Arts. Rocco returned to Pittsburgh in June to present his MAC-award winning show, *My Big, Fat Proposition 8 Wedding*, at the Cabaret at Theater Square to celebrate the release of a live-recording CD of the show.

**Wendy Hess-Veitz** (COM 1989) recently married Angelo Giavedoni Jr. They reside in Punxsutawney, where Wendy works for The Salvation Army. Wendy says she "has found that journalism and communications skills are very useful in social work."

**Barbara VanKirk** (A&S 1984), founder, president and CEO of IQ Inc., was honored



by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Western Pennsylvania Woman-Owned Business of the Year. She received her award on May 27 at the SBA's annual luncheon in Pittsburgh. VanKirk has grown her firm from its humble beginning at her family home to a staff of 45. IQ Inc. has worked with such clients as the Port Authority of Allegheny County, PNC, UPMC and Management Science Associates.



## CLASS NOTES

### ► 1990s

**Juli (White) Flasker** (COM 1992) writes, "I relocated from Florida with my husband, Paul, and two children, Sierra (13) and Connor (9), to Hendersonville, N.C. during the summer of 2009. I have been working for Mission Hospital in Asheville since August 2009 and recently accepted a position as assistant to the administrative director and medical director of Mission Hospital's Cancer Center, which is opening a brand-new facility in October 2011. I am very excited about this opportunity and love living near the Blue Ridge Mountains."

**Brent Earlewine** (COPA 1990) was just granted his 8th Degree Black Belt in Budo Taijutsu (a Japanese martial art). He has been training for 25 years in various martial arts and in Budo Taijutsu since 1996. Currently he is a senior instructor at the Pittsburgh Bujinkan Dojo on the South Side and works full time as a national partner manager at Avaya where he manages a \$150 million dollar portion of the overall channel business.

**Steve Rudinec** (A&S 1994) received the 2010 President's Graduate Studies Award at New England College. The award recognized his plan to reduce diesel exhaust, part of a capstone project completed by master's degree candidates. Rudinec put his master's degree in management to the test by seeking a way to help his company's customers deal with the strict regulations that apply to diesel engines and their exhaust. He developed a plan for an alternative power source based on battery or hybrid technologies and also proposed an alternative-powered mining vehicle. Rudinec is the director of quality and director of sales engineering at a manufacturer of mining and forestry equipment in Iron Mountain, Mich.



Joe Winkler

**Joe Winkler** (COPA 1992) earned first-place honors for his painting "Packard" in the 2011 Upper St. Clair League for the Arts Annual Group Exhibit, a juried show, last April. "Packard" was also shown at Art All Night! at the Iron City Brewery in Lawrenceville last May. "I enjoy old cars and try to shoot as much photo reference as I can at classic car shows in the area," says Winkler. He uses his fine art and photography skills as a graphic designer at Dymun + Company where he works with local and national healthcare, education and financial services clients. Visit his art blog at [www.winklerart.blogspot.com](http://www.winklerart.blogspot.com).

**Jennifer Headley** (COPA 1997) completed her Ph.D. in cultural studies from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., in April 2010. She is employed as a policy specialist at FEMA within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**John W. Tommasino** (A&S 1993) is a staff reporter/researcher at the website, [www.laidofflounge.com](http://www.laidofflounge.com). Tommasino interviews entrepreneurs from across the country and writes profile articles and other stories about business and employment issues. Tommasino lives in the Finger Lakes Region of New York and also pursues other freelance stories. He can be found on Twitter at [jtommasino](https://twitter.com/jtommasino) or visit him on Facebook.

**Catherine A. Cameron**, Ph.D. (BUS 1993, 1999) has established a real estate school in Allison Park, Pa. Founder of Cameron Seminars, designed to serve displaced workers, Cameron is the creator of the 777 Business Program. She has provided business consulting services for the past two decades. Visit [www.cameronseminars.com](http://www.cameronseminars.com).

### ► 2000s

**Brad Soroka** (COM 2009) is the new weekend anchor at WJTV News Channel 12 in Jackson, Miss.

**Brian Gulish** (COM 2005) was hired in June 2011 as program manager, income communications for the American Cancer Society's East-Central Division. The ACS E-C Division is comprised of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Gulish is headquartered in the Pittsburgh office. His responsibilities include media relationships in the Pittsburgh market. He manages such events as Coaches vs. Cancer, Pan Ohio Hope Ride, Philadelphia Bike-a-Thon, Determination, Relay For Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.



**Landon Connolly** (BUS 2000) has been promoted to vice president of human resources at CentiMark Corp., North America's largest commercial

roofing and flooring contractor, headquartered at Southpointe in Canonsburg, Pa. A member of the Society of Human Resources Management, Landon and his wife, Jennifer, live with their three children in Monaca, Pa.

**Meghan Heimbecker** (COPA 2002) recently married and now goes by the stage name Meghan Malloy. She recently

performed in the world premiere of the play *Michael Archangel* at the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, Pa.

**Caitlin Howley** (COPA 2009) has been hired as assistant technical director at Lehigh University.

**Emily Quidetto** (A&S 2006) is the new assistant to the chair of the NSET Department at Point Park. She previously worked in Admissions and Graduate and Adult Enrollment at the University.

**Michael Simmons** (A&S 2010) is the new director and chief of university police at Slippery Rock University. He was previously director of safety and security at Community College of Allegheny County. He earned a master's degree in administration of criminal justice at Point Park.

**Jesse Helfrich** (COM 2007) is a copy editor at The Hill, a Washington, D.C., newspaper that covers Congress and Capitol Hill. He joined the staff in January, 2011 after three years with the Beaver County Times in Beaver, Pa., and a short stint as a social media strategist for a Washington lobbying firm. Helfrich, who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism, works as an editor and fact checker for the newspaper's print and online products. During his time at Point Park, Helfrich served as editor-in-chief of The Globe and vice president of United Student Government.

**C. Elwood Penn IV**, P.E. (BUS 2011) has been named assistant managing officer of the Cincinnati office of GAI Consultants Inc. Penn has more than 25 years of experience managing engineering and environmental projects. He specializes in project management for the design of highway, land development and utility projects, and the development of environmental impact statements and assessments in accordance with National Environmental

Policy Act regulations. In his new role, Penn continues his responsibility as the GAI midwest region's client service leader for transportation. Penn spent the past six years working in GAI's Charleston office.

**Kyle Igneczi** (COPA 2008) was a performer in the international USO tour of the *Sesame Street Experience for Military Families*. The tour began in Columbus, Ohio, and headed off to perform for the troops and their families in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, South Korea, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Spain. Igneczi writes, "For clarity's sake, I play Cookie Monster (the fat blue one). This tour was produced by the USO (in conjunction with the Department of Defense) and Sesame Workshop (the organization behind the television show), so it's another big step forward in terms of my puppetry career!" Visit [www.kyleigneczi.com](http://www.kyleigneczi.com).

**Kristen Crusan** (BUS 2008) became development coordinator for corporate

campaigns at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation in December 2010. She was formerly a marketing project manager at UPMC Health Plan. Crusan, who earned her M.B.A. at Point Park, previously held a position at Blattner Brunner.

*Below: Kyle Igneczi as Cookie Monster (far left) on the USO tour of The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families. First Lady Michelle Obama and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden joined the cast on stage. Photos courtesy of Kyle Igneczi.*





## CLASS NOTES

**Carolyn Scott** (A&S 2008) writes, "I left Pittsburgh and moved to Raleigh, N.C., to pursue a career in teaching, but instead started my own photography business in 2008. Today I work full time for myself as a small business owner of Carolyn Scott Photography LLC, a wedding photography business in Raleigh." Visit her at [www.carolynscottphotography.com](http://www.carolynscottphotography.com)

**Martina Bills** (COM 2003) recently joined the Public Service Commission of West Virginia as a public information specialist. The commission is located in Charleston, W.V. Martina worked as a news anchor, reporter and producer at television stations in Beckley and Huntington, W.V., after graduating in 2003.

## DROP US A NOTE!

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

**Krissy Johnson** (COPA 2002) is in her third season with the Nashville Ballet. She was one of six dancers featured in the company's North American premiere of Twyla Tharp's *The Story Teller*. "I feel extremely lucky to be doing what I do in a beautiful city that appreciates art and that I get to work with some of the most amazing people and artists I have ever had the pleasure to meet," Johnson said in a recent profile on BroadwayWorld.com. "I love [Nashville] because it's such a great and diverse place to be an artist. You are constantly surrounded by music of all genres, there are wonderful art galleries, film festivals, and supporters and lovers of the arts. The audiences are great." Read the article here: <http://tinyurl.com/4xcapsa>.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Robert R. Fryer** (COM 1969), who helped transform the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review into an award-winning major metropolitan newspaper, died on April 13 of complications from lung cancer. He was 64. Fryer was the managing editor of Trib Total Media newspapers for more than a decade. According to a tribute column in the Tribune-Review, "Bob was one of the key people who made the Trib and all of its editions into a success," said Dick Scaife, owner of Trib Total Media, which publishes the newspapers. "His death comes as a terrible loss to all of us and to our readers." "Bob Fryer was dedicated to crafting great newspapers and giving readers great stories, and he was at his finest directing investigative projects," said Tribune-Review editor Frank Craig. "He will be terribly missed by all who knew or worked with him." Fryer's passion for the news and news gatherers began shortly after he graduated in 1969 from Point Park College. His first job was as a reporter in the Vandergriff office of the Valley News Dispatch in Tarentum. From there he became the copy desk chief and city editor. "Bob was a newsman who could do it all," said Rick Monti, senior deputy managing editor of the Tribune-Review and Fryer's colleague for 39 years. "We came up in this business together and were each other's conscience and sounding board."...Fryer is survived by his wife, Linda Roberts Fryer, of Allegheny Township; sons, Matt of Saver and Brit of Charlotte, N.C.; and three grandchildren. Read the entire tribute here: <http://tinyurl.com/3det4qx>.



Veronika Panagiotou

## STAR STUDENTS

The Point Park community gathered together on April 29 to recognize the achievements of University students and celebrate their accomplishments inside and outside the classroom.

The 2011 Outstanding Student Awards celebration took place at the Wyndham Grand Hotel just a few blocks from campus. Students and their families along with faculty, staff and alumni leaders gathered for an evening of camaraderie and student recognition before Commencement ceremonies on May 7.

"Tonight we take time to honor some specific individuals and their accomplishments over this past year," said President Paul Hennigan. "While we highlight these students, we must remember that all our students, faculty and staff contribute to making Point Park University the growing and successful dynamic, urban institution it has become."

*A sampling of honorees:*

### Alumni Association President's Award

Veronika Panagiotou

### Outstanding Graduating Seniors

School of Arts & Sciences:  
Francesco Sebastiani

School of Business:  
Terry Dougan

School of Communication:  
Frangelica Donlon

Conservatory of Performing Arts:  
Joshua Hedglin

Photo by Chris Rolinson.

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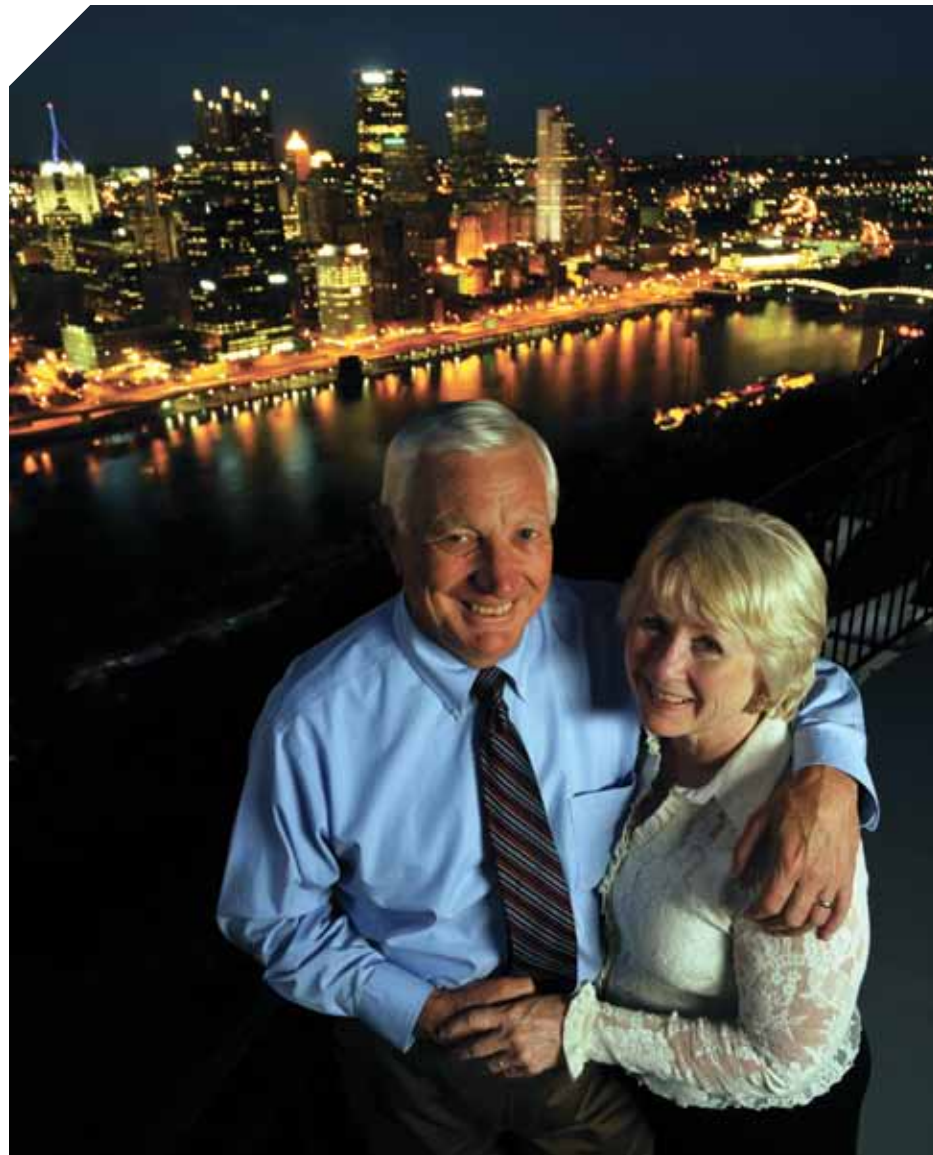
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Smith Brothers Agency, LP  
WTW Architects

*The companies and individuals listed are those available at press time. We regret any errors or omissions.*

Photo by Tom Bell

**POINT PARK**  
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# Founders Society in Forefront

**New society honors 100 benefactors who include the University in estate planning**

by Cheryl Valyo

As many alumni and friends have reconnected with Point Park at last year's 50th anniversary celebration and other events, there has been renewed interest in supporting the University's growth far into the future.

The newly established Founders Society, open to just 100 lifetime members, recognizes those who include the University in their estate or financial planning through a bequest, annuity or other type of planned gift.

University Trustee Donald Jenkins (BUS 1970) and his wife, Marilyn, longtime benefactors of Point Park, are among the inaugural members of the Founders Society.

Jenkins is principal of Main Street Capital Holdings L.L.C., a Pittsburgh-based private equity firm that invests in a broad range of industries. Raised in nearby Carrick, he worked full time as a steelworker at J&L Steel and as a truck driver while earning his bachelor's degree in accounting just a few years after Point Park became a four-year college.

"Point Park worked well for me for many of the same reasons it works for students today," says Jenkins. "It provided an excellent education and the flexibility to meet my schedule and needs."

Alumni who experienced Point Park in its early years are now at the age in which they are making estate plans, says Jenkins, and many have expressed an interest in supporting the University's long-term growth.

### Start of Something Big

"This is still a very young University, and I think this a great opportunity to be involved at the forefront of something that's going to be really big someday,"

says Jenkins, who points to Point Park's vision and success in implementing the Academic Village and other strategic initiatives on the Downtown campus.

Many colleges and universities that are much older than Point Park have had planned giving programs in place for many decades. The concept is still fairly new here, says Jenkins.

"Still, it has to start somewhere, and it has to start with someone—or a group of people," he points out. "For me, it's an honor to be part of the Founders Society."

The new society also recently welcomed George and Kathleen White, longtime University benefactors who recently made a \$1 million bequest to endow a new professorship in finance and accounting in the School of Business.

White says he hopes that his bequest will encourage other friends and alumni to consider supporting the University's long-term growth through their own estate planning (learn more about George White on page 12). "Point Park's Academic Village initiative is a profoundly wise investment," he said. "My wish is that others will be inspired to make a bequest or other similar type

of planned gift. Kathy and I hope to set a precedent."

Examples of various giving arrangements include gifts from a will or trust, gifts from a retirement plan, and gifts of life insurance or real estate.

According to Barbara Cinpinski, director of planned giving, many members of the Founders Society are people who have supported the University for many years. "This is a way to carry on your commitment and continue to make an impact long after you are no longer here to support Point Park in person.

"Through a bequest or other type of planned gift, you can ensure that your support will continue for many years to come."

### Learn about planned giving

If you would like to learn more about making a bequest or other type of gift that can help support Point Park while also meeting your own financial and estate planning needs, contact Barb Cinpinski, director of planned giving, at 412-392-4215 or [bcinpinski@pointpark.edu](mailto:bcinpinski@pointpark.edu).

*Opposite: Don and Marilyn Jenkins at their Mt. Washington home. Photos by Jim Judkis.*



## The Founders Society of Point Park University

Dr. George R. and Mrs. Kathleen White

Katherine and Tracy Henderson

Dr. Charles Quillin

Richard E. Rauh

Harry J. Mertz, '71

David Duncan, '79

Francine Dinneen Abraham, '84

Jacqui Fiske Lazo

Carol Ann Riden Spendiff, '72

Twila Simmons-Walker, '04, '06

Francis E. Forgacs, '02\*

Patrick W. Sinopoli, '78

George E. Marin, '73

Alan D. Chamberlain

Wilmer E. Fox, III '94, '96

Betty Lou Sarafin, '90, '90

Richard Haskins, '71

Robert J. Everett

Nancy Davis-Kahrs, '69, '72

Jacqueline Clarke Havrilla, '73

Susan Kubik Scott, '74

John R. Tomayko, Ph.D.

Donald and Marilyn Jenkins, '70  
(Donald)

Drs. Nancy and Milton Washington

Paul and Colleen Hennigan

Nancy Paule Melone, Ph.D., and  
Timothy W. McGuire, Ph.D.

Dennis and Jill Astorino

John Paul Yugovich, '69\*

*\*deceased*



POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

# BACK TO THE 'BURGH

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Oct. 7-9, 2011

This October, you're invited *Back to the 'Burgh* for a weekend of fun and opportunities to reunite with Point Park classmates and teachers. Enjoy a variety of activities, from campus tours and reunions to a street festival on Third Avenue. Don't miss this chance to see what's new, including the University's beautiful new park at Wood Street and the Boulevard of the Allies. Join us!

*Back to the 'Burgh*  
October 7-9, 2011  
[www.pointpark.edu/alumni](http://www.pointpark.edu/alumni)

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

### Alumni Golf Outing

Join in friendly competition as you and your foursome support Point Park's athletic programs at the University's inaugural golf outing. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Hickory Heights Golf Club in Bridgeville, Pa. (\$100 per golfer).

### Registration Opens

Pick up registration packets, tickets and general information. We'll have staff on hand throughout the weekend to answer your questions about activities and events as well as Point Park's developing Academic Village. 1 – 7 p.m., Lawrence Hall lobby.

### Campus Tours

Join student tour guides for a memorable tour of our Downtown campus. Explore what's new, from a brand new park to student living spaces. 1 – 6 p.m.

### Open House in the Park

Join current and former faculty and staff, students and alumni as we celebrate the opening of Pittsburgh's newest green space—in the heart of campus! Cocktails and campus tours are offered throughout the event. 4:30 – 7:30 p.m., corner of Wood Street and Boulevard of the Allies.

### Private Parties and Affinity Reunions

Celebrate your memories of being a resident student, a USG senator, an athlete or a campus reporter! 8 p.m., various locations.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

### Reunion Baseball/Softball Games

Get back in the swing of Point Park sports. All former baseball and softball players are invited to join us for the third annual reunion games at Point Park's new home field. 9 a.m. – Noon. Green Tree Park.

### Postgame Lunch

Enjoy refreshments with friends and fellow players after the game. Aracri's Greentree Inn. 12:30 – 2 p.m. (\$10 per person).

### Street Festival

Bring the family and enjoy a carnival atmosphere in the heart of campus! 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Third Avenue at Wood Street.

### WPPJ Radio DJ Experience

Former WPPJ DJs are invited to jump back in the booth! 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lawrence Hall.

### Campus and City Tours

Downtown Pittsburgh, has transformed into a thriving, cosmopolitan center. Join a student-led tour and experience the transformation first hand. 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Point Park Celebration Dinner

The premier event of *Back to the 'Burgh* weekend brings alumni together with

former and current Point Park faculty and staff. The evening begins with a cocktail reception, followed by a dinner program honoring the legacy of our faculty. 7 – 10:30 p.m., Wyndham Grand Hotel. (\$50 per person).

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

### Alumni Breakfast

Enjoy bakery treats, fresh fruit, made-to-order omelets and more. 9 – 11 a.m., Lawrence Hall Dining Facility.

### Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Brunch

Join us as we honor the 2011 inductees in the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame. The honorees are: Ryan Ellis (baseball, 1997-00), DeVaughn Halsel (men's basketball, 1996-98), Lara Lang (women's basketball, 1990-94), Mike D. Smith (baseball, 1997-00) and Oli Theodorsson (men's soccer & men's basketball, 1995-97). 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Student Center gym. (\$20 per person).

## Register today!

You can register online at [www.pointpark.edu/alumni](http://www.pointpark.edu/alumni) or call the Alumni Office at 412-392-4750 to request a reservation form. Looking for an old friend or have questions? Email [alumni@pointpark.edu](mailto:alumni@pointpark.edu) or contact John or Kelly at 412-392-4750.

## Accommodations

Visit [www.pointpark.edu/alumni](http://www.pointpark.edu/alumni) for more information about hotels. Mention Point Park University's alumni weekend to receive a discounted rate (while rooms last).

We'll be updating our online list of attendees so you know who's coming *Back to the 'Burgh!*





Far left: Coaches Jerry Conboy and Bob Rager in the Student Center gym. Photo by Martha Rial. Immediate left: Conboy with assistant coaches Rager and Bobby Franklin (left), both of whom were star players for the Pioneers in the 1970s.



Point Park men's basketball head coach Bob Rager (A&S 1974) became the University's all-time leader in victories last season when he passed his predecessor, Jerry Conboy. But Rager knows that his former college coach deserves a lot of credit.

"Coach Conboy is Point Park men's basketball," according to Rager. "He is a legend in Pittsburgh basketball. Without the start that he gave to this program, I don't know that any of us could have experienced the success that we've had."

Rager, who was an NAIA All-American player under Conboy from 1970-74, defeated nationally ranked Malone, 90-80, on Jan. 27, 2011, to become the Pioneers' all-time leader in wins. That victory, No. 306 in his career, gave Rager one more than Conboy. Rager, from Munhall, Pa., now has a record 310 wins to date.

"Bob has done a great job to continue what was started at Point Park," said Conboy. "He was an assistant under me, and he knew what it would take to have success at a school like ours. To win over 300 games is a great achievement."

"Of course, it took him 22 years to my 20 years to get there," Conboy added jokingly.

### Consistent Winners

All kidding aside, Point Park men's basketball has been a consistent winner for all of its 44 years of existence – the last 22 under Rager and 20 years before that under Conboy. The Pioneers have been to the NAIA national tournament five times.

"When I was hired in 1969, it was shortly after we became a four-year school," said Conboy. "Because we were able to have some success in basketball, I

like to think I helped put Point Park on the map."

Conboy quickly turned Point Park into one of the top basketball programs in the area, one that grabbed as many, if not more, headlines than bigger schools like Duquesne and Pitt. The Pioneers regularly played games at the Civic Arena and reached the national tournament in 1978-79 and 1982-83 under Conboy.

### Source of Pride

"[Basketball] was a great source of pride for Point Park," said Conboy. "We were well respected, made the District 18 playoffs almost every year, and were a big help in keeping the school going in the early 1970s."

"Coach Conboy was an innovator," said Rager. "His approach to the game was ahead of its time. To have a coach of his caliber at Point Park was huge for the school and for all the athletic teams."

Rager took over the program in 1989, and he had Point Park in the NAIA Final Four in 1996-97. That was the first of three national tournaments for Rager, who made it to the Sweet 16 in 2000-01 and reached the 2006-07 tourney with a 29-1 record as the No. 3 overall seed.

Rager ranks third all-time in victories among four-year college basketball coaches in the City of Pittsburgh. Rager trails only Pitt's Doc Carlson (367 wins) and Duquesne's Chick Davies (314) for that honor. Rager's 310 wins are just ahead of Conboy's 305.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP ◀

### ▶ MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pioneers made the AMC playoffs with a record of 15-12 behind NAIA Honorable Mention All-American Kris Douse (20.1 ppg, 12.6 rpg). Douse, a 6-7 senior forward, led the country in rebounding and was joined on the All-AMC first team by teammate Jimmy Sherwood, a senior guard who averaged 17.8 ppg.

### ▶ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pioneers were 14-13 in 2010-11 and had back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in 25 years. Senior guard Ashley Henderson was NAIA Honorable Mention All-American and was joined on the All-AMC selections by sophomore guard April Austin and junior center Joncelyn Peterkin.

### ▶ BASEBALL

The Pioneers were 38-13 overall, won the AMC regular season title at 14-6 and were ranked No. 23 in the final NAIA Baseball Coaches Top 25 Poll of the 2011 season. Second-year head coach Loren Torres was named AMC Coach of the Year after guiding Point Park to the finals of the AMC Tournament. Dave Angle (C), Lee Bodnar (1B), Brian Grise (CF) and Zach O'Neal (DH) were named All-AMC first team.

### ▶ SOFTBALL

The softball team was 23-18 overall in 2011 and made it to the finals of the AMC Tournament for the first time in University history. Fifth-year head coach Michelle Coultas was named AMC Coach of the Year, and senior pitcher Kristen Zelenka was the AMC Pitcher of the Year at 7-2. Zelenka was All-AMC first team, and Lindsey Pesanka was second team for the Pioneers, who tied for the AMC regular season title at 10-4.

### ▶ MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team won three tournaments in 2010-11 and placed third of 8 teams at the AMC Championship. Just two years after a 37-year hiatus of men's golf at the school, the Pioneers had four players averaging in the 70s. Austin Elder averaged a team-best 74.35 and was joined on the All-AMC team by fellow sophomore Alex Bernardini.

### ▶ WOMEN'S GOLF

Women's golf completed its second year as a varsity program and competed in five tournaments. A talented recruiting class, just the second in program history, arrives on campus in the fall of 2011.

"Passing Coach Conboy in all-time wins was bittersweet," said Rager. "He helped me develop as a player, person and coach. Passing him is not what was important to me – it was about continuing what he built. I'm proud to have done that, and also help student-athletes succeed

in academics, basketball and social development along the way."

*Kevin Taylor is director of athletic communications at Point Park. For more sports news, visit [www.pointpark.edu/Athletics](http://www.pointpark.edu/Athletics).*

## A Coaching Legacy

Rager passes Conboy for all-time wins, but still defers to his college coach

by Kevin Taylor



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