THE CHAIR
Starz Channel Debuts New Docuseries Filmed at Point Park and in Pittsburgh

IN FOCUS
A $15 Million Legacy from George and Kathleen White
Dear alumni and friends,

It’s back-to-school season, one of my favorite times of the year. Point Park’s campus is bursting with energy and excitement that our students bring with them as they arrive for the first time in, or return to, our Downtown neighborhood.

This fall is especially exciting because the University welcomes a record number of first-time, full-time freshmen. These new students will participate in Point Park’s new core curriculum, beginning with the City-University Life freshman seminar course and culminating with a senior capstone project. They will also benefit from a new eight-term advising model, “Pathways to Success,” in which students will connect with both an academic advisor and an advisor in Point Park’s Center for Student Success during each semester. It’s all part of our focus on high impact education: that is, enhancing the overall student learning experience to ensure student success.

The late George and Kathleen White were also focused on the success of Point Park’s Center for Student Success during times of the year. Point Park’s campus is that our students bring with them as they

It is impossible to overstate the impact that the Whites, longtime champions of the University’s transformative potential, have had on Point Park. Their bequest will be dispersed among several critical initiatives, including the Pittsburgh Playhouse construction fund and enhancements to the University’s School of Business, including continued funding of the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance.

George and Kathleen White’s extraordinary generosity will enable us to expand programs and campus enhancements that are significant and meaningful, not just to our students and academic community, but to the Pittsburgh region as well. In this issue of The Point, we pay tribute to their pivotal legacy and creative vision.

Whether you are a student arriving on campus for the first time, or a long time alum, you are a key element of Point Park’s success. We are proud to say that our commitment to success and creative transformation will remain in focus, now and in the years to come.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan
President
Dear Editor:

In the Winter 2014 issue of The Point [in an article on Point Park’s architectural preservation efforts and plans to move the Pittsburgh Playhouse to the Downtown campus] there is a reference to the Lillian Russell Room at the Playhouse. For those not familiar with her, Ms. Russell was an actress who performed at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

While in Pittsburgh, she stayed at a house (a three-story mansion) at 372 Lawn St. in what is now known as South Oakland. The house was purchased by Point Park University in 1965 and later sold to the City of Pittsburgh. The building had been converted into three residential units. I believe the building is currently used as a community health center.

The Point Park University-produced feature film, The Umbrella Man, premiered last June at the Pittsburgh Independent Film Festival, followed by another screening in August at the Portland Film Festival in Oregon. It will be screened in October at the Kansas International Film Festival, where it is one of five films eligible for the jury award.

Directed by Michael Grasso, The Umbrella Man tells one couple’s story of love, loss, and the survival of their relationship in the aftermath of their child’s death and the acquittal of the boy’s killer. Point Park University was the driving force in developing the original material written by Michael and Joseph Grasso. The Umbrella Man marks the feature film debut by the Grasso brothers, who are commercial film veterans. Set in Pittsburgh in 1983, the film follows Peter and Annie Brennan as they face the tragic death of their young son. The boy’s death, and the subsequent acquittal of his killer, kindles a conspiratorial paranoia in Peter that threatens his sanity and marriage. While trying to discover more about the killer, Brennan becomes fixated on the story of the “umbrella man,” a suspected shooter in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The REP, Point Park University’s professional theatre company, mounted a staged production of The Umbrella Man in 2011 at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Directed by Robert A. Miller, who also is a producer on the movie, the stage play introduced audiences to the deep human drama in an unprecedented stage experience. The movie was filmed in the Pittsburgh area in 2013, and provided dozens of Point Park students a unique opportunity for on-the-job training. View a trailer for the film at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyO4SRNE47Q.

The Umbrella Man is Screened at Film Festivals in Pittsburgh, Portland and Kansas City

The Pittsburgh Triathlon and several Pittsburgh Steelers players are among his clients.

Steve Cuden, assistant professor of screenwriting, and adjunct instructor Elise D’Haenen, presented at the annual Women in Film and Television International Summit held in Downtown Pittsburgh, May 16-18. Cuden, a playwright and songwriter, presented the dance career that carried him around the world and ultimately to Pittsburgh, where Petrov developed techniques and programs that are used not just locally, but across the country.

Steve Tanzilli, J.D., associate professor, chair and founder of the Department of Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management, presented on the topic “Representing Athletes Off of the Field” at the 2014 North American Society for Sport Management Conference last May. NASSM is involved in supporting and assisting professionals working in the fields of sports, leisure and recreation, Tanzilli’s presentation at the conference was part of a professional development editorial panel session, which also featured Pittsburgh Penguins vice president James Santilli. Tanzilli also serves as president of Sports Legends Group, a full-service marketing, finance and law firm for professional athletes and celebrities. The Pittsburgh Triathlon and several Pittsburgh Steelers players are among his clients.

Steve Cuden

Professional Advancement

Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park University, received the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ 2014 Award in the Community & Economic Development category for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who demonstrate excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. Hennigan was selected by an independent panel of judges. The award was presented June 20 at a gala event at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh. “I am humbled and honored by this award,” Hennigan said. “It is representative of the work so many people have done at Point Park to make the University an important fixture and one of the many economic drivers in Downtown Pittsburgh.” In its 28th year, the program has honored the leadership of such entrepreneurs as Howard Schultz of Starbucks, Coffee, Pierre Omidyar of eBay, and Mandy Grossman of HSNI. Recent national winners include Red Hoffman and Jeff Weiner of LinkedIn and Hamdi Ulukaya, founder of Chobani. As a Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia award winner, Hennigan is now eligible for consideration for the Entrepreneur Of The Year 2014 national program.

Nicolas Petrov, professor emeritus, published his memoir From Paris to Pitts- burgh: My Life in Dance on February 2014. Available on Amazon, proceeds will help support Point Park Dance. Petrov and co-author Claudia M. Lawrey chronicled his artistic development and deliver the first history of dance in Pittsburgh. One of America’s most influential choreographers and ballet directors, Petrov founded the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet Petrov. The American Dance Ensemble, and the Point Park Dance Department. The book spans more than 80 years of his life, beginning with his childhood in Eastern Europe, and follows the dance career that carried him around the world and ultimately to Pittsburgh, where Petrov developed techniques and programs that are used not just locally, but across the country.

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Steve Cuden, assistant professor of screenwriting, and adjunct instructor Elise D’Haenen, presented at the annual Women in Film and Television International Summit held in Downtown Pittsburgh, May 16-18. Cuden, a playwright and screenwriter with nearly 40 years of experience and a member of the technical chapter of Women in Film and Television, gave a seminar titled “Creating Unfor- gettable Scenes.” As long as the world wants to see great, compelling stories for motion pictures and TV, there will always be a need for the creation of eminently watchable characters in conflict with other great characters in memorable scenes,” Cuden said. D’Haenen, a screenwriter, novelist and editor, and Molly Rice, a playwright and songwriter, presented on the topic of “Creative Disruption/ Distribution” to a group of filmmakers from around the country.

Helena Knörr, PhD, associate professor of organizational leadership, traveled to Mexico City June 26 - 27 for the Sec- ond International Meeting in Entrepreneurship Development. At the conference she presented on the topic “Values, Ethics and Sustainable Develop- ment of Businesses” and conducted a workshop for business owners on “Tools for Consolidating Businesses in Mexico.” At the conference, Knörr was inter- viewed by Forbes Mexico for the article “Three pieces of advice from Mexico to the world!” In the article, Knörr talks about the need to rescue indigenous values to foster a more collaborative, sustain- able and ethical business perspective on entrepreneurship and how important this is for Mexico. Knörr serves as a reviewer and consulting editor for several peer- reviewed journals and professional organiza- tions and is the director of the Global Entrepreneurship Program for Women in Latin America.

Ed Traversari, MBA, associate professor of sports, arts and entertainment man- agement, was recently the keynote speaker at a Pittsburgh Association of School Refirees luncheon. Traversari gave an overview of theentertainment business in Pittsburgh and spoke about his many years working in concert pro- duction for “Discesare Engler Productions. Traversari consults for a number of clients, including Heinz Hall, Seven Springs Resort, the Pittsburgh Irish Festival, PBS Televi- sion Concert Series and Carnegie Science Center.
Gregory Rogers, JD, professor of criminal justice and intelligence studies, was chosen as one of the New Pittsburgh Courier’s 2014 Men of Excellence. The honorees represent a diverse group of African American men who have displayed proven success within their profession, are positive role models whose contributions encourage others and are active in community service. Rogers has more than 32 years of experience in the intelligence community. He began his career in special operations in Indochina during the Vietnam War. He has served as a combat control team member and later joined the U.S. Army and worked in HQ S-2 Intelligence with the 11th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces Airborne (Green Beret). He has also served in the Office of Protective Services; U.S. Secret Service; U.S. Customs Service; and was a founding member of the Department of Homeland Security. Rogers was a member of the Webster Commission and was appointed as a diplomat assigned to the European Union Sanctions Assistance Mission and worked in Romania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary during the conflict in Bosnia.

He served as a national program manager and as a senior special agent/attorney advisor in Covert Operations. In 2011, he received the U.S.A. Tactical Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award in Intelligence and National Security.

David Rowell, M.F.A., assistant professor of sports, arts and entertainment management, was selected to be the lead facilitator at the Mid-Atlantic Performing Arts Market conference session on blocked booking in November 2014 in Lancaster. Pa. Rowell also served as a judge, along with Angela Isaac, Ph.D., at the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship national conference in Pittsburgh last June. In January, Rowell was the co-chair of the new colleague/mentor program at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference in New York City. Rowell has taught and worked in theatre management all over the United States. Prior to joining Point Park, he was executive director of the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe, VT.

Rochelle Z. Klein, associate professor in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, served as a judge for University of Pittsburgh’s 2014 Greek Sing at the Fitzgerald Fieldhouse. The event raised $25,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Last spring, Klein performed as pianist for Family Hospice and Palliative Care’s music service; as a collaborative pianist for the $10,000 Keynotes Scholarship Competition; and as stage manager for the Pittsburgh Concert Society’s Alumni Winners Recital. On campus, Klein presented a musicanship master class/interactive workshop to musical theatre students. Two Point Park professors were among Klein’s students in this Spring’s MUS 106, an elective piano class open to all.


Gregory has her own consulting firm, Pinnacle Fundraising Consultants, LLC, which provides strategic guidance and creative services to nonprofit organizations, including assistance with fundraising (particularly government grant-seeking), organizational development and technology solutions. Gregory has been a part of leadership teams on campaigns ranging in size from $200,000 to $40 million for a variety of organizations.

Richard Gutkind, Ph.D., and Vincenca Revilla Beltrán, professors in the graduate education department, hosted educators from Singapore Polytechnic on campus on June 26. Gutkind and Revilla Beltrán hosted the international visitors for a luncheon and gave presentations on the history of U.S. education and teacher training while offering strategies to further engage students in online learning “This was a wonderful opportunity to share about instructional practices, emerging technologies, effective methods of student interaction and teacher professional development, all in the context of cultural variables,” said Revilla Beltrán. Norton Gusky, a member of the Point Park Graduate Education Advisory Board, arranged the Singapore educators’ international visit to Point Park.

Greta Daniels is the new director of annual giving at Point Park. She previously served at Sewickley Academy as director of alumni relations. Daniels earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from New York University.

Beth Exton is the new assistant director of development at Point Park. She previously served as director of development at Girls Hope of Pittsburgh. Exton earned her master’s degree from Robert Morris University and her bachelor’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Myksin is the new director of alumni relations at Point Park. She previously worked at Georgetown University Law Center as an associate director of the Law Annual Fund. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University.

Susan Orr is the new director of corporate and foundation relations at Point Park. She previously served as director of development at Sojourner House, Inc. in Pittsburgh. Orr earned her master’s degree from Point Park University and her bachelor’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Dittrich has joined Point Park as a data specialist in the Department of Development and Alumni Relations. She previously served as gift entry and donor records specialist at Carlow University. Dittrich earned her bachelor’s degree from La Roche College.
Black Men Teaching Conference

Point Park welcomed about 100 high school students to campus on May 7 for a conference focusing on the need for more black male teachers in America’s schools as well as the opportunities and benefits the teaching profession offers. The inaugural “Ever Consider Teaching?” conference is part of the Black Men Teaching Initiative, a consortium made up of representatives from Point Park, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, California University of Pennsylvania and the Community College of Allegheny County. Statistics indicate that African-American men make up about one percent of the population of college education majors and less than two percent of the three million teachers in the United States. Point Park was selected to host the conference because of its long-standing commitment to the advancement of its mission. “Point Park has made to the Pittsburgh region and beyond through education, the performing arts, journalism, engineering and science. Her mother, Rosemarie Cibik, played an integral role in the early development of Point Park University and was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees. “Following my mother’s legacy, I will do my best to dedicate my service to the University,” Cibik said.

Global Immigration Colloquium

Point Park University professors from Iran, Spain, Greece, India, Peru, Afghan- stan and the United States presented on socioeconomic, political, legal and ethical issues surrounding global immigration at the annual faculty colloquium on April 3. More than 80 students, faculty and staff attended the event, which was hosted by the Department of Global Management and Administration. According to Dimitris Kranio, Ph.D., global migrant flows are a grave concern impacting many countries. “It is imperative that proper attention is paid to this issue. Honest dialogues and discussions should involve both the home and host countries. Only then, we may be able to arrive at pragmatic and viable ways of dealing with the challenges of global immigration,” said Kranio. Presentations included: “Habees Corpus: The Future of Immigrants’ Rights in America” by William Breslove, Ph.D.; “Global Migration and its Impact on International Relations” by Bahman Homayoonfar, M.A.; “Facies of Immigration: Perspectives from Spain” by Helena Knörr, Ph.D.; “Illegal Immigrants to the E.U.: The Aegean and the Mediterranean Sea Routes” by Dimitris K. Kranio, Ph.D.; “Go to the Neighbor: India’s Immigration Challenges” by Archish Maharaja, Ed.D.; “Economic Impact of Latino Immigrants in the U.S. Economy: Present and Future” by Luis Palacios-Salguero, Ph.D.; and “Forced Migrations: Humanitarian Crisis in the Global System” by Mohammed Siddiq, Ph.D. The topics covered highly relate to my major. Many international business and trade problems involve immigration and are affected by immigration issues and laws,” explained Yasmin Elgendy, an MBA in global management and administration student originally from Egypt.

Sharon Navoney was named vice president of development and alumni relations on July 1, 2014. Rick Haskins will continue his tenure at Point Park as vice president of special campaigns.

Dr. Lisa Marie Cibik is New Trustee

Lisa Marie Cibik, MD, FACS, recognized as one of the most experienced cataract surgeons in the United States, has been elected to Point Park’s Board of Trustees. Dr. Cibik serves as president and director of cataract services at Associates in Ophthalmology, which has seven locations in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. She was among the first surgeons in the U.S. to use multifocal and presbyopic intraocular lenses and the femtosecond laser for cataract surgery. In 2012, she performed the first LenSx laser cataract procedure in Western Pennsylvania. Cibik is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine. “Dr. Cibik is dedicated to the advancement of her field and a widely respected surgeon. Her commitment to excellence and admirable volunteer work make the doctor a perfect fit for Point Park University,” President Paul Henring said. In 2013, Cibik’s commitment to vision care led her on a voluntary mission trip to remote villages in India, where she served with a medical team caring for 600 to 700 patients per day. She also dedicates time to local philanthropy, supporting a number of nonprofit organizations, civicventures, and cultural and performing arts agencies. As she is an emeritus trustee on the board of the Audia Caring Heritage Foundation and serves on the board of the Pittsburgh Opera, “the daughter of career educators, their influence never stops,” Cibik said. “I am honored to be elected to the Board of Trustees and place a high value on the commitment Point Park has made to the Pittsburgh region and beyond through education, the performing arts, journalism, engineering and science.” Her mother, Rosemarie Cibik, played an integral role in the early development of Point Park University and was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees. “Following my mother’s legacy, I will do my best to dedicate my service to the University,” Cibik said.

Rev. Lamar D. Lee, Jr., Ed.D., gave the closing address. Daniel Matthews, senior associate registrar/director of registration at Point Park, coordinated the conference. Students from Gateway High School, Propel Andrew Street, Propel Braddock Hills, Propel Homestead, University Preparatory School and Wilkinsburg High School were among the attendees.

PICPA ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIPS

Point Park accounting students Khouanchay (Kay) Krueger and Christopher Cerda were awarded $3,000 multi-year scholarships from the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. “We are fortunate at Point Park University to have some very talented and motivated accounting students. Chris Cerda and Kay Krueger definitely fall into this category,” remarked Cheryl Clark, M.B.A., CPA, associate professor of accounting. “I am pleased beyond words when our hard-working students get recognition as prestigious as this from the PICPA. According to Clark, PICPA scholarships are awarded to qualifying full-time students who have completed a minimum of 36 credit hours, have a declared major in accounting with a minimum 3.0 GPA and are preparing to take the CPA exam. Additionally, students must answer essay questions and submit faculty recommendations. After graduation, I hope to work at a CPA firm, pursue my M.B.A. degree at Point Park and study for the CPA exam,” said Krueger, who serves as president of the Student Accounting Association. “Professors like Amy Cesarino, Cheryl Clark and Margaret Gillifian have been extremely supportive of the Student Accounting Association and are always there to help students stay updated on scholarships, internships, jobs and more,” added Krueger. Cerda also plans to take the CPA exam and pursue a position at a public accounting firm after graduation. “Professors Edward Scott and Cheryl Clark have been a tremendous help to me. The real-world experience that Point Park’s accounting professors have not only impacts the classroom experience but also gives students the opportunities to make connections in the industry,” remarked Cerda.

*Based on 24,000 recorded alumni addresses, 7/20/2014.
NEW INDIE-POP BAND NEVADA COLOR

Sports, arts and entertainment management major Adam Valen is one of the founding members of the five-piece indie-pop band Nevada Color, which also features Max Kovalchuk (an SAEM major), bassist Chris Cichra (a cinema and digital arts major) and singer Quinn Wirth (also a cinema and digital arts major). According to Valen, “musically, we pull together many of our influences to create an eclectic, upbeat sound. Our SAEM studies definitely helped influence a lot of the choices we’ve made from the business side of the band. For example, with Max taking a course in legal aspects of sports, arts and entertainment, it taught us how we can support ourselves in different ways other than medical. “Keeping people aware of health issues around them is very important,” she remarked. Amendola’s career goal is to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “We learned about the food needs in Western Pennsylvania and the process of meeting those needs,” he was amazed at the size and scope of the program. The Food Bank is a well-organized, modern facility and we had a very rewarding experience,” said Krill.

Speaker Series for High Schools

Point Park’s School of Business has initiated a new Speaker Series that is free to high school teachers in the Pittsburgh area. The program offers teachers the opportunity to invite a School of Business faculty member to come to their school to share expertise by leading a lecture or class discussion on a wide range of topics, such as math, finance, sports management, accounting, information technology, events management and much more. Featured faculty speakers include: Steve Tanzilli, J.D., chair and associate professor of Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management; Amy Cesario CPA, MBA, visiting assistant professor of accounting; Robert Scherick, Ph.D., assistant professor of public administration; Helaina Knorr, Ph.D., associate professor of global management and organization; and Mark Voortman, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of information technology. For more information, contact Amanda Munsch, School of Business outreach coordinator, at 412-392-8029 or amunsch@pointpark.edu or visit www.pointpark.edu/privationspeaker.
NEWS & VIEWS

ETIQUETTE LUNCHEON FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
For high school freshman Miracle Buggs, the chance to be on a college campus for the first time in her life was an experience she will never forget. Buggs and 67 of her classmates from Holy Family Academy — a new Catholic high school that will prepare economically disadvantaged students for a career — were invited to attend an etiquette luncheon at Point Park on July 9. Hosted by the Career Development Center, the goal of the luncheon, led by the Career Development Center, was to provide training in etiquette, professional dress and public speaking. “Our students go to school four days a week and one day a week they will go to work — as part of a corporate work-study program — to develop the skills they need to be workers of the future,” said Sister Linda Yankoski, CEO and president of Holy Family Academy. “Our non-profit partners, such as Point Park, are providing in-kind services to our students and that’s why we are here for the etiquette program.” Four Holy Family Academy students will return to campus during the fall semester as part of their corporate work-study program.

Angela Scaramucci, coordinator of employer relations for the Career Development Center, led the luncheon. “I strongly believe in the mission of the Holy Family Academy and from a career development perspective, I think it’s great that these students will be getting real-world experience during their high school years. Their experience will greatly help them as they decide on a college, a major or what industry they would like to pursue,” she said.

Point Park has accepted more than 40 doctoral students into its new 64-credit Ed.D. program in leadership and administration. On Aug. 23, the first cohort had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on leadership and service project that involved building desks for high school students from disadvantaged neighborhoods. The project, which took place at the KML Regional Council of Carpenters training center west of Pittsburgh, provided the new doctoral students with training in human-centered design skills as well as a perspective on the leadership framework of the Ed.D. program.

The University’s first doctoral program is designed to educate leaders who will be able to function as a skilled instructional and/or organizational leader in an educational, non-profit or business environment; understand and respect the complex interrelationship among stakeholders; use six performance domains (developed by Drs. Charles Schwab and William Spady in Total Leaders and adapted by the Professional Leadership Development Center) of authenticity, vision, culture, quality, service systems and communication to lead and effect change; and understand the role of research in guiding assessment and progress. Future doctors of leadership and administration can choose from three tracks: Professional Leadership (including those working toward Superintendent Letter of Eligibility); K-12 Administration (including principal certification); and an individualized concentration that allows students to transfer post-master’s credits and focus on personalized goals. For more information about the program, visit: www pointpark.edu/leader. Watch for upcoming issues of The Point to meet some of Point Park’s first doctoral students and learn about their activities.

SUMMER MEDIA WORKSHOP
High school students learned the basics of multimedia journalism, reporting, digital graphics and layout, and how to work with audio and video at the School of Communication’s summer media workshop, June 17. “When there’s something happening in the city, our students go out in Downtown Pittsburgh and track down the stories,” said Heather Starr Fiedler, Ph.D., associate professor of multimedia, as she welcomed the students to campus. The group of nine students spent the first half of their day in interactive workshops exploring photojournalism and video shooting techniques, WordPress site development, blog writing, multimedia, and storytelling and interviewing skills. The students worked with School of Communication faculty to write, edit and publish their work online. “Writing should be fun. Your stories should be useful, relevant and interesting,” said adjunct instructor David Grande. “As a reporter, always remember to listen more than you engage in the conversation.” Cole Hetzler, a junior at Mars Area High School and an aspiring sports journalist, returned to Point Park for his third media workshop. “These workshops have taught me that this is the field I definitely want to pursue. This year I learned so much more about how to effectively use technology when I write my stories,” Hetzler said.

CSI Summer Camp 2014
“Evidence doesn’t lie, people do.” This was the theme of Point Park’s annual CSI camp, in which high school students interested in the forensic science field came to campus July 15-18 to learn about what it’s like to have a career in the crime lab. The camp featured a mixture of lectures, blood splatter and fingerprint analysis, trace evidence hair and fiber labs and hands-on investigative work performed right on campus in Point Park’s crime scene investigation house. New this year, the camp expanded from three to four days to include practice media interviews and a mock trial along with lectures from Professors Trudy Avery, J.D., and Gregory Rogers, J.D., on the criminal justice and intelligence fields. “Many students interested in forensic science also want to know about criminal justice and intelligence so we decided to talk to the students about the variety of career opportunities available within all three fields,” explained Edward Strimlan, M.D., assistant professor and coordinator of the forensic science program at Point Park. “This was a fine group of very motivated high school students who show great promise for the future of forensic science, intelligence and criminal justice,” added Strimlan. In addition, a writer from STEM JOBS magazine came to campus to interview the students and faculty. STEM JOBS magazine is a national digital and print publication that encourages high school and college students, especially women and minorities, to pursue science, technology, engineering and math education and careers. The feature story will run in the magazine’s fall issue.
COMMENCEMENT 2014

More than 560 bachelor’s degree students took part in Point Park’s annual undergraduate Commencement May 3, 2014 at the CONSOL Energy Center.

“For our graduates, today is a great day – it is the reward and culmination of several years of disciplined learning. It is also a great day for your families; a time of pride and celebration,” President Paul Hennigan said to the students and 4,500 guests.

Commencement speaker Jim Rohr, who recently retired as executive chairman and CEO of PNC Financial Services Group Inc., spoke about the increasing impact PNC and Point Park University are having on Downtown Pittsburgh. He encouraged students to work hard to make an impact of their own as they build professional careers. “I have never seen a lazy person be successful,” Rohr told the students.

Graduating senior Sara Mahmood, an education major, spoke on behalf of the Class of 2014. “My hope is that we all leave here today holding on to this feeling of confidence and accomplishment,” she said. “I hope that this encourages us to persevere through whatever adversities we have yet to face as we pursue our careers.”

See a slideshow at: www.pointpark.edu/news.aspx?id=1242

The Honorable Paul Costa (BUS 1991), a Pennsylvania state representative and University trustee, with his graduate son Michael.

From left: David Peart (COM 1984), senior vice president of the Pittsburgh Penguins and a University trustee, with his graduate son Tyler; Commencement speaker Jim Rohr with Trustee Anne Lewis and President Paul Hennigan; former Pittsburgh Mayor Dick Thornburg and his wife Ginny with Hennigan; Rohr with Milton and Nancy Washington, Ph.D., an honorary degree recipient and Point Park trustee. Photos by John Abeln.

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY ONLINE

Point Park has embarked on an ambitious, comprehensive effort to expand the University’s online full degree programs.

Seven (undergraduate and graduate) online full degrees and four certificates are available as of fall 2014, with more to be rolled out each January and August. The number of online full degrees is projected to more than double within the next three years, according to Gary Bracken, vice president for enrollment management.

According Bracken, the online full degrees are designed for adult students who may have delayed obtaining a college education due to life responsibilities, or who need a new degree for career advancement. Members of the military who are preparing to re-enter civilian employment are also good candidates for online degrees, says Bracken.

While the University has long offered accelerated and capstone degrees, certificate programs, and many individual courses online, the online full degrees include all core course requirements. The programs also provide online students with the University’s range of advising, career counseling, possible internships, online library services and other support services and opportunities. Counseling, advising and internship opportunities are particularly important, says Bracken, because online students are often focusing on career growth and change.

In spring 2014, Point Park engaged The Learning House as its partner in online learning because of the company’s broad experience and success in marketing, managing and growing online degree programs, according to Bracken.

Before coming to Point Park, Bracken led a similar project to expand online programs at St. Leo University in Florida. St. Leo’s now has thousands of online students in addition to a large campus population of traditional students, and Bracken believes that Point Park has the potential to experience similar growth.

Quality Instruction

Point Park’s online programs have been created in accordance with Quality Matters (QM), a national non-profit organization that specializes in developing quality online experiences for students. In fact, 90 Point Park faculty members have received QM-based training. 13 are QM-certified to serve as peer reviewers, and three are master reviewers. The goal is to provide online learning that reflects the quality and personal attention of campus classroom instruction.

No matter where they are in the United States or around the globe, online students will benefit from Point Park’s strong liberal arts tradition, faculty expertise, emphasis on real-world experience, and dynamic urban and cultural environment, says Bracken.

Growth in online degree programs “will be a culture-changer for Point Park,” he predicts.

For more information, visit: online.pointpark.edu

The current online full degrees and certificates are:

ASSOCIATE DEGREES
A.S. in Public Administration

BACHELOR’S DEGREES
B.A. in Organizational Leadership
B.S. in Business
B.S. in Public Administration
B.S. in Public Administration - EMS Administration
B.S. in Public Administration - Fire Service Administration

MASTER’S DEGREES
M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction

CERTIFICATES
Certificate in Public Administration
Certificate EMS Administration
Certificate Fire Service Administration
Certificate in Intelligence and National Security
Downtown Pittsburgh is buzzing with great new restaurants these days. One of the newest spots, Hundred Wood, is aiming to become a favorite gathering spot for the students, faculty and staff of Point Park.

A new gastro-pub serving locally sourced food and beer, Hundred Wood opened its doors this summer in the heart of campus next to the Village Park.

Named for its location at 100 Wood St., Hundred Wood began operations with outside grilling on the plaza in July. The restaurant is owned by Dennis and Melody Scott, longtime restaurant operators and owners of the popular Market St. Deli Co. & Asiago Express at the PPG Place food court, which closed its doors last spring.

Fresh Food Combined with Comfort

“We’re thrilled to be a part of the Point Park community,” said Dennis Scott. “Our goal is to provide students, faculty and downtown workers a place for delicious, fresh food in a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.”

Located in the space formerly occupied by Osteria 100, Hundred Wood features take-out and dining-in service, with outdoor grilling and patio seating when weather permits. The Scotts are committed to serving locally sourced food as much as possible, and have developed close relationships with local suppliers.

“Talent on the Menu”

Hundred Wood features an assortment of locally brewed draft beer in stainless steel barware, with all other non-draft beers served in aluminum cans for optimum recycling benefits. They also serve draft wine, a relatively new beverage option that allows wine to stay fresher, and eliminates the needs for glass bottles. The couple’s commitment to sustainability extends to the restaurant’s furnishings, which will include tables and chairs made in the USA from reclaimed lumber that will blend with the existing exposed brick, cork flooring and barn wood.

“Fresh Food Combined with Comfort”

“We want Hundred Wood to be a place where live music, poetry readings and even improv nights will not only attract but feature the talented, creative and artistic students of the University,” said Scott. Plans also include a wall that will feature University arts, sports and academic memorabilia.

Hundred Wood is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and until midnight Thursday through Saturday, serving lunch and light dinners. The menu features food priced to attract students, faculty, office workers and downtown residents. The restaurant also caters special events, meetings or other gatherings.
The late George and Kathleen White’s long-time commitment to the growth of Point Park University has been a source of academic and physical campus improvement for more than 20 years.

Today, that commitment to ensuring Point Park’s growth and development in the future is manifested in the couple’s $15 million bequest, the single largest gift in the University’s 54-year history. The White bequest will be distributed among various initiatives at the University, including the Pittsburgh Playhouse construction fund and enhancements to the University’s School of Business, including continued funding of the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance.

Generosity and Support

“The White bequest is a transformational gift for our University and we are humbled by their legacy of generosity and support,” said President Paul Hennigan. “Their passion for the arts, and their understanding of the importance of a well-rounded liberal arts education set in a vibrant Downtown, are embodied in this generous gift.”

According to Hennigan, “the Whites’ bequest will allow the University to expand programs and campus enhancements that are significant and meaningful, not just to our students and academic community, but to the Pittsburgh region as well.”

For example, he pointed to the Urban Accounting Initiative, established in 2011 by the Whites to encourage minority youth to pursue studies and careers in accounting and finance.

“The Whites had the vision to match the growing need for accountants and financial professionals with the importance of finding stable careers for a demographic that is historically challenged to do so,” he said. Now in its third year, the Urban Accounting Initiative, directed by Edward Scott, M.B.A., C.P.A., the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance, hosts an Accounting Career Awareness Program each summer, in conjunction with the National Association of Black Accountants, where minority high school students attend classes on careers in accounting and business, personal development and college preparation as well as meet and learn from mentors in the fields (see page 20).

A Transformational Legacy

$15 million bequest from the late George and Kathleen White is the largest single donation in Point Park history

“George always emphasized that he saw the School of Business as an opportunity for Point Park to make an impact on the community,” says Karen McIntyre, Ph.D, senior vice president of academic and student affairs, “to provide to the community as well as benefit from opportunities in the community. He had that vision for Point Park a very long time ago.” Moreover, “they wanted it to be applied, practical and meaningful,” according to McIntyre. “From their own experience, business should help to change your life and the lives of others.”

Pivotal and Meaningful

In an economic climate where many schools of Point Park’s size and endowment are often challenged to fund the expansion of academic programs, enhancements to the physical campus, and attract and retain a vibrant study body, the bequest comes at a pivotal moment for the University.

“The transformation our campus has experienced through the Academic Village initiative has been significant and the Whites’ generous gift allows us to further that process and plant the seeds for future efforts,” said Hennigan.

The Whites’ support of a healthy Downtown, its rich cultural offerings, business and corporate interests, as well as opportunities for exploring and learning, were a perfect complement to the community of Point Park. In a 2011 interview with The Point, George White discussed the $1 million bequest he and Kathleen made to the University to establish the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance. “My hope is that others will be inspired to make bequests and similar types of planned gifts. We would like to set a precedent.”

George White in the restored board room in the University Center in 2011. Portrait by Richard Kelly.

George White (2011)
George and Kathleen White were remembered for personal kindness and extraordinary vision in education, business and the arts.

Even before he entered grade school in his hometown of Niagara Falls, N.Y., George White’s brilliance set him apart. “George was always quite knowledgeable and very bright,” recalls his sister, Caroline Shogren. “His former kindergarten teacher once told our mother that she had to use an encyclopedia to look up some of the information he shared at school! He carried that reputation for brilliance throughout his life.”

George White went on to become a scientist, businessman and urban visionary. He earned several degrees, including a doctorate, and spent most of his career in industrial and urban visionary. He earned several degrees, includ-
ing a math and science graduate of Purdue University and a talented financial investor, to Pittsburgh. “They loved the city’s warm and friendly people,” says Shogren, and quickly adopted Downtown Pittsburgh as their home.

**Urban Visionaries**

George and Kathleen became distinguished benefactors of Point Park, the Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and other educational and cultural organizations in the city. George took a personal interest in Point Park early on. He became a University trustee in 1995, taught at the School of Business, led the establishment of the University’s state-of-the-art library and University Center, and supported the Conservatory of Performing Arts. The George Rowland White Performance Center and GRW Theater in the University Center bear the White name. The couple also established the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance, held by alumnus Edward Scott, CPA, M.B.A., who leads Point Park’s Urban Accounting Initiative with educator and civic leader Dr. Herman L. Reid, Jr., director of academic outreach at the University.

Kathleen, who became a trustee as well, was honored in a campus ceremony naming the George Rowland White Performance Center, recognizing her husband’s vision for Point Park as a dynamic urban university. Together, the couple made a lasting impact in their dedication to Point Park’s programs, students, and faculty before they died (George in 2012, and Kathleen in 2013), and that impact continues with their transformational bequest of $15 million. As Kathleen told the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, “a lot of George’s contributions were to expand Point Park as a means of revitalizing Downtown Pittsburgh.” Her husband, in turn, was always quick to credit his wife: “The secret,” he said in a 2011 interview with The Point, “is to marry a bright woman.”

**Impacting Lives**

Reid became a close friend of George and Kathleen White several decades ago, during his service as the executive director of the Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED) in Pittsburgh. Today, he continues to uphold their vision in his work with the BOLD (Building Our Leaders Daily) program, which is based at Point Park and provides a series of hands-on, real-world career awareness, preparation, acquisition and exposure experiences for middle school students in urban schools.

Reid recalls that he first met Kathleen when she walked into the NEED office and asked to meet him. “She said, I’ve read about what your organization is doing to help students, and I want to support it!” She then reached into her purse and pulled out a generous check. She told Reid that she was particularly impressed with the story of a talented Point Park student who had received assistance through NEED, and said, “I like what you are doing to get students prepared to enter into this global economy.”

It was the beginning of a personal friendship with both George and Kathleen, says Reid, who enjoyed theater, music and long conversations with the couple that continued through the years. “They died too soon,” he says. The BOLD program is, in part, a tribute to both of them, he says. “George was bold, and you have to be bold,” says Reid. “I met two persons who changed my life, and want to do the same for someone else: to create a legacy that will impact individual lives.”

**Consistent Values**

“The idea that George and Kathy would become so invested in the success of Point Park, a university that they didn’t even attend, was completely consistent with their values,” recalls Warren Moe, George White’s nephew. “In everything they did, they wanted to see a difference being made. And they believed that one of the best ways to do that was through education, which was a very strong family value for them.”

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“I don’t want George and Kathleen White to be forgotten. I want their legacy to remain in action.”
Alumnus Edward Scott (BUS 1989), the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance at Point Park, says he never had the pleasure of meeting George White, who died in January 2012, but did have the opportunity to interact with Kathleen White after his arrival on campus in 2012. White attended one of his first campus presentations, and afterward made a point to compliment him. “She came up to me and said that she knew I would do well here because I’m a good communicator,” recalls Scott. “It was great to receive that comfort and support, particularly from the person who made it possible for me to return to Pittsburgh and Point Park.”

After spending many years in the corporate world, including serving as vice president of international purchasing for the Kansas City Southern Railroad (KCSR), Scott says he believes he is “doing what he was always meant to do” by focusing his career on teaching.

In addition to courses in accounting at the School of Business, he also leads the Urban Accounting Initiative to encourage education and careers in accounting and finance, particularly among young minority students. In summer 2014, Point Park hosted the second annual Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP), welcoming 18 students from high schools across the Pittsburgh region.

As part of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., ACAP’s goal is to increase understanding among high school students in underrepresented minority groups about the field of accounting and its career opportunities. Scott is the leader of the six-day program, which includes a full schedule of educational, networking and recreational activities.

Throughout the week, students heard from guest speakers presenting on a variety of topics from financial literacy and accounting careers to public speaking and essay writing. Students also attended a business etiquette workshop dinner with local business professionals and toured several public accounting firms in the city. Fun activities round out the week, which wraps up with a closing ceremony featuring student presentations and awards.

“Job growth and strong compensation packages are common in the accounting profession. We want to get the word out to young people about these opportunities,” says Scott. He also makes a point to talk to the students about his life and what led him to where he is today. He recounted the struggles and triumphs of his high school and college years, and the people who inspired him to enter the accounting profession. “You always have a need for mentors in your life,” he told the students.

The program is already bearing fruit, according to participants. “My week was very exciting. I got to see what an accountant does and how many big corporations there are in Pittsburgh,” according to Tanisha Debold, a student at Pittsburgh’s Urban Pathways Charter School who took part in ACAP 2014. “I learned that each type of accountant is very different. This week opened my eyes to what I can do. I’m definitely considering accounting.”

What Dr. George and Kathleen White provided, through their very generous endowment, is a catalyst for opportunity. It’s a privilege for me – and I feel a great deal of responsibility – to honor Dr. White by working toward realizing his vision for this professorship and ultimately, the School of Business.

— Ed Scott, C.P.A., M.B.A., George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance
George was a wonderful brother and a wonderful person. He was so proud of Point Park. He wanted it to be the best and did his best to help it in that direction. It was part of his love for Pittsburgh. He and Kathleen knew how important Point Park’s success is to Pittsburgh’s success.

— Caroline Shogren (George White’s sister)

George and Kathleen White’s commitment to ensuring Point Park’s growth and development in the future is manifested in the couple’s $15 million bequest, the single largest gift in the University’s history. The White bequest will be distributed among several initiatives at the University including the Pittsburgh Playhouse construction fund and enhancements to the University’s School of Business, which includes ongoing funding of the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance.

Cultural Cornerstone

For the past three decades, the White name was already well known on Point Park’s campus. In 1995, George White joined Point Park’s Board of Trustees, serving in such leadership roles as chair of the Facilities Committee and as a long-standing member of the Academic Affairs Committee. He also served as the Library Center Program manager, overseeing the development and construction of Point Park’s state-of-the-art library. As a Point Park donor, White supported Point Park’s Conservatory of Performing Arts with the George Rowland White (GRW) Theatre in the University Center and the George Rowland White Dance Studios. In October 2012, the George Rowland White Performance Center was named for him in recognition of his vision and many years of service to Point Park.

By George

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In Focus

Visit http://plannedgiving.pointpark.edu for more information and learn about the benefits of estate planning.

That’s the impact your gift can have as a bequest to Point Park University.

With a bequest, you automatically become a member of Point Park’s Founders Society, joining the first 100 alumni and friends who make a lasting commitment.

A simple conversation to name the University as a beneficiary in your will or other estate plan is all it takes. Contact Rick Haskins (1971), vice president for special campaigns, at 412-392-6097 or rhaskins@pointpark.edu.

Leave a legacy that will help Point Park students for years to come.

Visit http://plannedgiving.pointpark.edu for more information and learn about the benefits of estate planning.
Playhouse season features world premieres, classics and contemporary works

Point Park’s Conservatory Theatre Company (CTC) will produce five works, including the world premiere of a new musical about the life of the legendary Pittsburgh Pirates Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente, in the 2014-2015 season, which begins with “21” on Oct. 17 and runs through April 26 at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

“21” tells the compelling story of the unparalleled life and death of baseball great Clemente, as well as the three women who were instrumental in making him the man he was – his mother, Doña Luisa, his wife, Vera, and his doting sister, Anairis. “21” was written by Alki Steriopoulos, whose extensive theatre resume includes conducting Those Were the Days on Broadway, Gifts of the Magi at the Lamb’s, and The Little Prince starring Tony-winner Daisy Egan at the John Houseman. He played keyboards for Tommy, served as associate conductor for A Chorus Line, and conducted the U.S. tour of Five Guys Named Moe. “21” will be directed by Richard Sabellico, who has directed Off-Broadway, national tours, and several Pittsburgh CLO productions, including The Music Man, Hello, Dolly!, and The Pajama Game.

Roberto Clemente musical“21”and more

The Conservatory Dance Company’s 2014-2015 season includes a full-length ballet production of Sergei Prokofiev’s Romeo and Juliet, choreographed by Professor Emeritus Nicolas Petrov, who retired last December after teaching dance for more than four decades. An acclaimed dancer and choreographer with more than 50 years of experience, Petrov choreographed the American premiere of Romeo and Juliet at Point Park more than 40 years ago. It was his first production at the school and last year he concluded his tenure with another memorable production of Prokofiev’s famous ballet. It will be presented again Dec. 5-14 at the Rockwell Theatre. The Conservatory Dance Company season also includes such annual productions as Contemporary Choreographers, in which luminaries of the dance world collaborate with students, Conservatory Dance Company at the Byham, and much more.

Fun at Playhouse Jr.

Playhouse Jr., Point Park’s family and children’s theatre company, invites school and community groups and the general public to three engaging productions during its 66th season, which opens with Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream on May 9. The second oldest children’s theatre company in the nation, Playhouse Jr. features acting, musical theatre, stage management and technical theatre/design students both on and off stage at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

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### On Stage This Fall and Spring

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<td>Of Mice and Men</td>
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### Special Offer for Alumni

Point Park alumni receive a 50 percent discount off regular ticket prices. Visit or call the box office: 412-392-8000. For information on the 2014-2015 Playhouse season, including subscriptions, tickets and alumni discounts, visit [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com).
The Point Park-produced documentary series, The Chair, made its debut on Sept. 6 on Starz as the channel’s first original unscripted series. The 10-episode series airs at 10 p.m. on Saturdays throughout the fall.

More than 100 Point Park students and alumni from a variety of majors supported the TV series and two feature films as interns, employees and through class projects. Additionally, production offices were located on Point Park University’s campus in Downtown Pittsburgh. In a recent article, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette called The Chair “A love letter to Pittsburgh.”

“Point Park is proud to be a partner on The Chair, and we are excited for Starz viewers to see a finished product that employed a number of University students and alumni,” said President Paul Hennigan. “This project acts as an economic driver and incubator for original entertainment that boosts the local economy while giving our students the kind of experience they need to thrive in the real world.”

Behind the Scenes

“Point Park is extremely excited that Starz is distributing and airing The Chair. It is a terrific opportunity to see the University profiled, to see the ways the city was utilized for the films, and to see the efficient and hardworking crews in action,” said President Paul Hennigan. “This project acts as an economic driver and incubator for original entertainment that boosts the local economy while giving our students the kind of experience they need to thrive in the real world.”

Quinto, and his production company, Before The Door Pictures. “Working in Pittsburgh with the support of Point Park was an invaluable component in creating this show and these two films,” said Josh Shader, who produced the two films. “Watching the passion and drama that goes into making a feature film is something I believe will truly engage audiences this fall.”

“We are thrilled to be teaming up with Chris Moore on The Chair, a truly unique and compelling project that gives viewers an inside look at the filmmaking process and allows them to weigh in on the final product and see how creative minds can interpret the same material in different ways,” Starz Managing Director Carmi Zlotnik said.

Hollywood Veterans

The Chair is produced by veteran Hollywood producer Chris Moore, and Pittsburgh native and renowned actor Zachary Quinto, and his production company, Before The Door Pictures.
SPOTLIGHT ON:

Missy Haught (CoPA ’09)
Intern Coordinator, The Chair

Melissa (Missy) Haught earned her degree in cinema and digital arts (with a producing concentration) in 2009 and supervised more than 30 students in her role as intern coordinator for The Chair. She previously worked in casting the films Unstoppable, The Next Three Days and Love and Other Drugs and has worked on feature films with such studios as DreamWorks, Fox and Warner Brothers. Haught has done reality shows, commercials, pilots, television series work, features and shorts, and currently has the opportunity to be the coordinator of the film Out of the Furnace. “When you are making films constantly, which you do at Point Park, there are a myriad of lessons being taught … Those lessons, which have become instincts, have come in handy on every single film I’ve worked on,” she said. “The cinema professors stress the importance of learning by doing. I am proud to come from a school that taught me how to make films, rather than just how to talk about them.”

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Jonathan Joseph (CoPA ’08)
Line Producer, The Chair

A native of Phoenix who earned his degree in cinema and digital arts (with a producing concentration) in 2008, line producer Jonathan Joseph was involved in all three facets of The Chair Project: both narrative films and the documentary series. Working professionally with Point Park was exciting, he said. “It’s great that Point Park is creating opportunities for their graduates to work professionally in their field of study.” In addition to this project, Joseph started his own production company called Counting Sheep Productions and has been producing commercials and promotional mini-documentaries. He also produced a low budget indie feature called Progression, shot in Lawrenceville. Joseph said he appreciated Point Park’s “strong emphasis on practical, hands-on production. Being on set and having to actually produce a large amount of work while in school really helps to prepare you for real-world production.”

Moore has served as producer or executive producer on such films as Good Will Hunting, Glory Days, Best Laid Plans, Joy Ride, American Pie, Waiting and Reindeer Games. He formed LivePlanet alongside Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Sean Bailey, and was the creator of Project Greenlight. Since 2005, Moore has directed or produced American Reunion, The Adjustment Bureau, The People Speak, The Last Resort, and Promised Land, which also was filmed in Pittsburgh. He is the co-founder and managing director of The Media Farm. Quinto graduated from Central Catholic High School and Carnegie Mellon University. His television roles include Adam Kaufman on the Fox series 24 and Sylar on the science fiction series, Heroes. He also played Spock in the remake of Star Trek (2009) and Star Trek Into the Darkness (2013).

Senior photojournalism student Sarah Cunningham, who took the photo on The Point cover and all photos on pages 27-29, documented production work on The Chair project as part of a student internship in spring 2014.

Cinematographer and Point Park student Kevin Stiller operates the Steadicam on Shane Dawson’s set. “Working on The Chair was an incredible experience,” says Stiller, who also worked on the behind-the-scenes documentary.

Report on alumni profiles by Abigail Mathieu (COM ’14).
This fall, you can tune in to the Starz Channel to see The Chair, filmed at Point Park University, as they compete to make a movie (from the same script) and showcase the talents of more than 100 alumni who have donated their time, their talents and their treasure. It was there that I saw the value of the Green and Gold Society, whose members serve as ambassadors between students and alumni. It was there that I saw the value of gracious donations from our esteemed alumni. Certainly, the financial gifts of alumni are a driving force in the development of our University. I am just one of many former students who benefited from contributions to scholarship programs and other gracious donations from our esteemed alumni. However, I also come from a graduating class that helped initiate the Green and Gold Society, whose members serve as ambassadors between students and alumni. It was there that I saw the value of alumni who have donated their time, their talents and their treasure.

I challenge you to do the same. For example, consider offering your time to the Pioneer Alumni Recruitment Team (P.A.R.T.) Many alumni have taken the first step in welcoming future students into our University and growing the alumni base. We are building our alumni database and are excited to connect with alumni around the country.

With the hustle and University growth along the Wood Street corridor, it’s easy to visualize moments you could help make possible. Such as the moment a family walks wide-eyed through Lawrence Hall. The moment when the new Playhouse opens its doors on the Downtown campus. Moments that make Point Park competitive and a unique experience for students. The gift of your treasure — no matter how large or small — carries with it the future of our University.

As the Alumni Association Board begins this new academic year with a flurry of new ideas and initiatives in store, I look forwarding to seeing and speaking with you soon to begin your engagement. Please stay in touch at alumni@pointpark.edu.

Sincerely,

Carrie Potter-Murray (COM ’09)
President, Point Park University Alumni Association
find the program, instructors and classroom settings that I needed to take my career and ambition to the next level. I am eternally grateful for Point Park and the University’s accelerated program! Allen earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction.

Billy Hartung (COPA 1993) and his eldest child Elizabeth (Age 14) performed together in the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera’s production of Footloose in June 2014. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, “When Broadway producers were considering ways to turn the 1984 hit film Footloose into a musical, Hartung... was cast as the villainous boyfriend, Chuck.”

Hartung was actually held in the lobby of the Richard Rodgers Theater, where the show opened on Oct. 22, 1998, and ran for 709 performances. “I am really proud that Elizabeth is in the show and thought it would be a gift to share the stage with her in a professional production,” he told the Post-Gazette. Now living in his hometown of Mt. Lebanon, Hartung has appeared on Broadway, off-Broadway, in films, television and regional theaters throughout the country. He can be seen singing and dancing in the movie musical Chicago and has performed in both the 75th Annual Academy Awards and the 25th Anniversary of the Kennedy Center Honors, where he danced in a tribute to Chita Rivera. He also has been featured in the original casts of two additional Broadway shows, Side Show and Minnelli on Minnelli.

Don Kelly (BUS ’06) was named the Detroit Tigers 2014 Heart and Hustle Award winner by the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association on July 22, 2014. Every team in Major League Baseball has one recipient of the award, and it is the second year in a row that Kelly is the Tigers’ award winner. According to a Detroit Tigers press release, the award honors active players who demonstrate a passion for the game of baseball and best embody the values, spirit and tradition of the game. The Heart and Hustle Award is also the only award in Major League Baseball that is voted on by former players.

Don Kelly (BUS ’06) was named the Detroit Tigers 2014 Heart and Hustle Award winner by the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association on July 22, 2014. Every team in Major League Baseball has one recipient of the award, and it is the second year in a row that Kelly is the Tigers’ award winner. According to a Detroit Tigers press release, the award honors active players who demonstrate a passion for the game of baseball and best embody the values, spirit and tradition of the game. The Heart and Hustle Award is also the only award in Major League Baseball that is voted on by former players.

Drew Ziccardi (A&S 1996), is an industrial sales consultant for hazardous waste and structural strengthening market segments, but says that his love for food, and the lack of inexpensive, fine dining food options, led him to open a new restaurant: Gabriella’s Gourmet on Minnelli. Read the entire Post-Gazette article: http://bit.ly/1qNS06E.

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2000s

Jackie Baker (COPA ’09) has accepted a position as the general manager at Brictolage Production Company in Downtown Pittsburgh. Baker was previously the development manager for Kelly Strayhorn Theater and continues to act, direct and produce.

2010s

Faith Cotter (COM ’11) is the author of Clara, a short story, released in June 2014 via Smashwords and Amazon Kindle. Smashwords distributed the story to iBooks, Kobos, Barnes & Noble, Oyster, Scribd, Ondelay and other library apps. Cotter’s narrative essay Paper Dragons was likewise published later in June. Clara and Paper Dragons were featured on WestEndMaa.com, an author services company, on June 23 and 30 respectively. As a student, Cotter was active in Point Park’s creative writing community. For more information about the books, visit faithcotter.wordpress.com.
Within the last few years, Point Park Athletics has joined a new conference, added new sports teams and adopted new home facilities. During this time, the Pioneers have achieved some of their best success ever. Many of the Pioneers teams are competing for conference championships and several have represented the school in NAIA national tournaments in recent years. Indeed, Pioneers fans have plenty to be proud of. Director of Athletics at Point Park for the last eight years, Dan Swalga came to campus prior to the 2006-07 school year. Swalga was honored as the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) Athletic Director of the Year for 2013-14. He talked with The Point to share his thoughts on Pioneers Athletics for alumni and fans:

How would you describe the current state of Point Park University Athletics?

DS: I believe we are on the cusp of greatness. Many of our teams and coaches have experienced competing on the national level in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and they are learning what it takes. We all have to work harder to get to the next level, and we have the staff to do just that. We have great resources from the administration, and we are built for success. The Point Park community should be happy with our recent past and excited about our future.

With recent success of Point Park teams, winning conference titles and qualifying for NAIA national tournaments, what has been the best part of that from your perspective as director of athletics?

DS: Watching our student-athletes and coaches competing at the national level. They work so hard to get there, and although we haven’t been as successful as we’ve wanted [at national tournaments], watching them enjoy that moment is great. At the end of the day, we’ve won our conference, and it is satisfying to see our kids celebrating in the middle of the court or field. I can’t describe the smiles and sense of relief. I want all of our teams to experience that.

What do students get out of the student-athlete experience, and how does it add to the overall college experience?

DS: The college experience is greatly enhanced in many ways by being a student-athlete. There are opportunities to experience things that you never would otherwise, such as: the bond of competing as a team, representing your school, traveling across the country, and sharing in the joy of a championship. And you also learn great time management and learn to achieve highly to the best of your ability. These are the things we hope our student-athletes experience here at Point Park.

Describe the significance of Point Park being accepted into the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) starting with the 2012-13 school year.

DS: Being accepted by, and joining, the KIAC as a conference member was hugely important. There are many advantages of being in a conference, such as making scheduling easier and being eligible for the KIAC’s automatic bids to NAIA tournaments. It is much better than being an NAIA independent institution, for which you lose in scheduling and NAIA bids. And the KIAC provides us with a competitive league, so it was a ‘win’ for us in many ways to join the conference.

Why did Point Park join the KIAC? What went into that decision?

DS: The need for a new conference came about when the American Mideast Conference folded after the 2011-12 school year. We had been in the AMC since 1999. We didn’t leave the AMC as much as the AMC left us – many schools left for NCAA DII or DIII. We explored all options, beginning in 2010, such as other NAIA conferences, NAIA independent or NCAA. After a long process, we felt the best option was to join the KIAC and remain NAIA.
Point Park has been a member of the NAIA for its entire 47-year history of competition versus four-year schools. Why is the NAIA a great fit for Pioneers Athletics?

DS: The NAIA is a great fit for schools of our size and athletic makeup. The NAIA gives us the opportunity to offer athletic scholarships, unlike a lot of schools of our size that are NCAA Division III. That allows us to get a higher caliber of athlete while at the same time giving the opportunity to succeed here academically with a smaller school and more attention and time spent on class work. And the NAIA Champions of Character program emphasizes all that is right with collegiate athletics. We try to achieve those goals.

Point Park Athletics have never experienced such balanced success across all sports than right now. How has that come about?

DS: A big part of it is coaching—we have a great staff of coaches at Point Park, who not only know what they are doing, but they have been in their roles for several years.

I don’t know that Point Park has ever had this much stability in its coaching staff, especially with that being true for all sports and instead of just a few. And the support from the administration has allowed all sports a chance to compete with the scholarship structure the way it is.

In recent years, Point Park Athletics has experienced some great gains with the home venues of its teams, such as the on-campus Student Center Gym for volleyball, Point Park Field at Green Tree Park for baseball, and Highmark Stadium for men’s and women’s soccer.

What have these facilities brought to the department?

DS: They’ve brought collegiate-level facilities for our student-athletes to enjoy, and a better experience for those sports teams involved because we aren’t traveling as far as in the past. When I first arrived, we were playing baseball in Butler (36 miles) and Washington, PA (30 miles) and soccer in Cheswick, PA (19 miles). Highmark Stadium is a 15-minute walk from campus and Green Tree Park is about three miles. And playing volleyball on campus in the Student Center Gym is the first time this school has had intercollegiate athletic events on campus. This makes less stress on our players and coaches and improves their quality of life.

Describe your thoughts on the addition of men’s and women’s golf teams in 2009, and men’s and women’s track and field teams in 2014.

DS: The addition of these sports has added to the profile of athletics at Point Park and given us more opportunity to succeed. These sports have championships in the NAIA, so our student-athletes have an opportunity to compete nationally. Along with cross-country, these sports are about individual competition, which is unique and different from our team sports. We’ve added about 80 student-athletes to our department as well.

What would you like to say to Point Park Athletics alumni? What does a strong group of athletics alumni do for an athletics department?

DS: I’d hope that they would be interested in reconnecting, or staying connected, to our programs. Our recent success has been built off of their good work and efforts as student-athletes while they were here. We need them to share their wisdom with our current student-athletes and coaches. They are always welcome.

What does the future hold for Pioneers Athletics?

DS: The immediate future for athletics involves managing our growth. We’ve grown tremendously, so now we have to get our resources to meet that level of growth so that we can continue to provide the best experience possible for our student-athletes. In addition to men’s and women’s golf and men’s and women’s track and field, we’ve also added JV programs in baseball, women’s basketball and soccer.

What is your favorite part of being director of athletics at Point Park?

DS: This is an easy answer. My favorite part is watching the personal growth I see in our student-athletes and watching the passion of our coaches and players as they work to succeed. Watching players work hard in their sport, connect to Point Park, and do great in their academics is extremely satisfying. I always say that we are in the business of education, not in creating professional athletes. I think for the most part we embrace that concept in our department. I love watching our kids compete.

Interview by Kevin Taylor, director of athletic communications.
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