

# THE POINT

## THE CHAIR

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

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## IN FOCUS

A \$15 Million Legacy from  
George and Kathleen White

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# POINT PARK UNIVERSITY



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 the 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 and its students. Their dedication to the University's growth and prosperity is manifested in their \$15 million bequest – the single largest gift in the University's history.

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



**On the cover:** Point Park cinema student Kevin Stiller on the set of *The Chair*, filmed this past spring at Point Park and in Pittsburgh. Photo by Sarah Cunningham, senior photojournalism student.

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### TALK TO US!

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

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#### Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Initiatives

This policy affirms Point Park University's commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and the pursuit of diversity. Point Park University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, ancestry, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, caregiver status or familial status in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities or with respect to employment or admission to the University's educational programs and activities. This policy is in accord with local, state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Pittsburgh Human Relations Act. Inquiries regarding these regulations, policies or complaints of discrimination should be referred to the human resources officer, telephone number 412-392-3952. Inquiries regarding Title IX and the Title IX regulations should also be referred to the senior vice president, academic and student affairs, as the Title IX coordinator, or deputy coordinators, the human resources officer or the dean of students.

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

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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyO4SRNE47Q). ❖

## ▶ FEEDBACK

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. On the sidewalk in front of the house, there was a black, very ornate, pole about 4 feet high. Local legend has it that Ms. Russell used to tie her horse at the pole when she stayed at the house. I have not been on Lawn Street for a while, so I am not sure if the pole is still there or not. My grandmother lived on Lawn Street for many years, and in the late 1960s moved into the building, which had been converted into three residential units. I believe the building is currently used as a community health center.

In the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s, I spent a great deal of time in the South Oakland area. I attended Point Park from the summer of 1968 to spring of 1972. Both South Oakland and the Point Park campus have changed greatly over the years. I have enjoyed visiting campus and seeing the changes. I visited recently in [fall 2013] to attend the Accounting Alumni dinner and later visited with staff in the Alumni Office.

Dennis J. Iurlano (BUS 1972)  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## NEWS AND VIEWS ▶

### 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." Now in its 28th year, the program has honored the leadership of such entrepreneurs as Howard Schultz of Starbucks Coffee, Pierre Omidyar of eBay, and Mindy Grossman of HSN. Recent national winners include Reid 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 Pittsburgh: My Life in Dance* in 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.

**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**, assistant professor of screenwriting, and adjunct instructor **Elise D'Haene**, 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 local chapter of Women in Film and Television, gave a seminar titled "Creating Unforgettable 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'Haene, 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**, Ph.D., associate professor of organizational leadership, traveled to Mexico City June 26 - 27 for the Second International Meeting in Entrepreneurship Development. At the conference she presented on the topic "Values, Ethics and Sustainable Development of Businesses" and conducted a workshop for business owners on "Tools for Consolidating Businesses in Mexico." Also at the conference, Knörr was interviewed 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, sustainable 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 organizations and is the director of the Global Entrepreneurship Program for Women in Latin America.

**Ed Traversari**, M.B.A., associate professor of sports, arts and entertainment management, was recently the keynote speaker at a Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees luncheon. Traversari gave an overview of the entertainment business in Pittsburgh and spoke about his many years working in concert production for DiCesare Engler Productions. Traversari consults for a number of clients, including Heinz Hall, Seven Springs Resort, the Pittsburgh Irish Festival, PBS Television Concert Series and Carnegie Science Center.

**Gregory Rogers, J.D.**, 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. Marshal 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 memorial 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 musicianship 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.

**Teresa Gregory, M.F.A., C.F.R.E.**, assistant professor of sports, arts and entertainment management, co-presented "Community Connections: Learning Through Collaboration" May 30 at the Association of Arts Administration Educators 2014 Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec. 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 **Vincenne Revilla Beltrán, Ph.D.**, 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



The Pioneer Experience, Point Park's orientation program, was held several times during summer 2014. The annual program is designed to help new students discover everything the University has to offer and the chance to meet other incoming students. Photo by Chris Rolinson.

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.

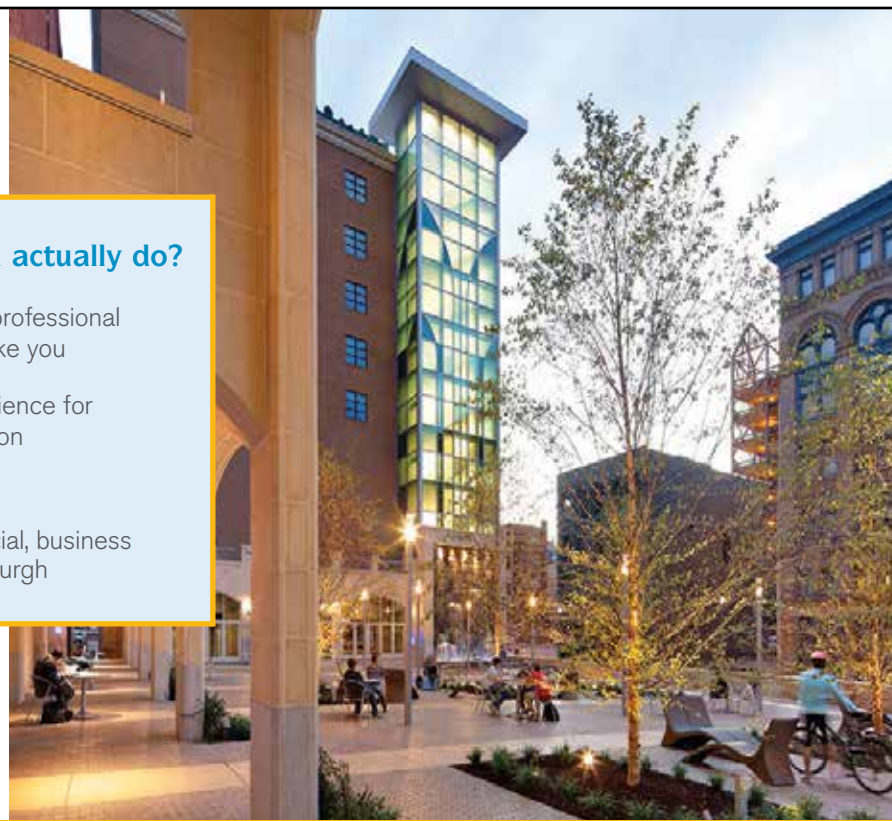
**Jennifer Dittrich** has joined Point Park as a data specialist in the Department of Development and Alumni Relations. She previously served as gift entry and donor records specialist at Carlow University. Dittrich earned her bachelor's degree from La Roche College.

## POINT PARK UNIVERSITY Annual Fund

### What does my gift to the Annual Fund actually do?

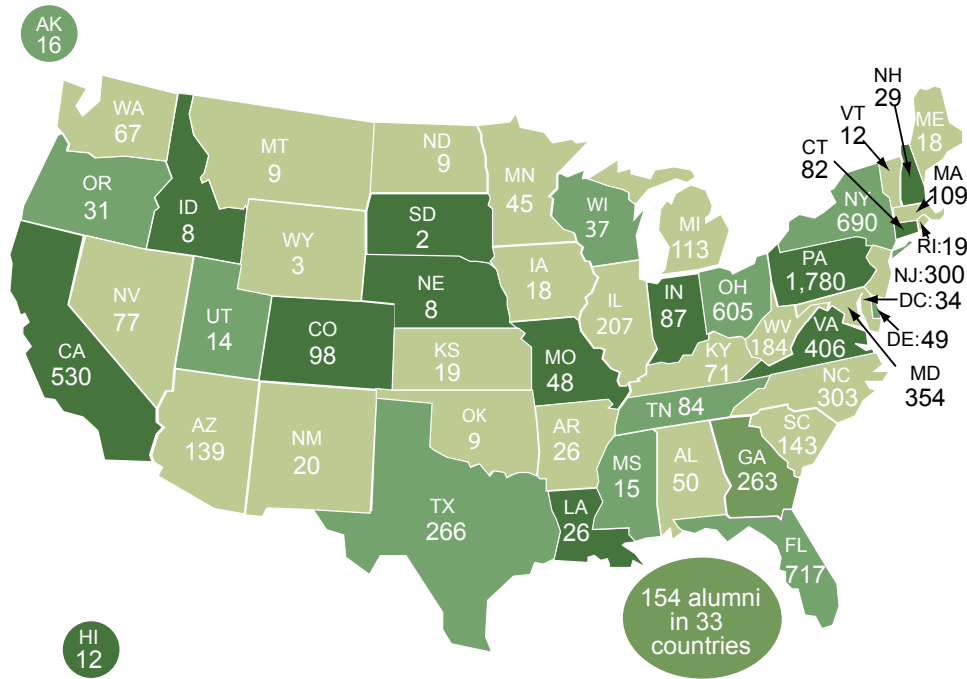
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POINT PARK ALUMNI, UNITED STATES AND BEYOND



\*Based on 24,000 recorded alumni addresses, 7/20/2014.

**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**, M.D., F.A.C.S., 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 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 Hennigan 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, civic ventures, and cultural and performing arts agencies. She as an emeritus trustee on the board of the Audia Caring Heritage Foundation and serves on the board of the Pittsburgh Opera. "As 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.

**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 record of community engagement and its central location in Downtown Pittsburgh," explained **Stanley Denton**, Ph.D., associate professor of education. "The event was generously supported by a grant from The Heinz Endowments to **Dr. Robert Millward** of IUP." from **Melvin Jenkins**, Ed.D., professor and chairperson at IUP, delivered the keynote address, then breakout sessions on the various academic programs and admissions requirements associated with earning an undergraduate degree in education.

**Rev. Lamar D. Lee, Jr.**, Ed.D., gave the closing address. **Daniell 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 Wilksburg High School were among the attendees.

**Global Immigration Colloquium**

Point Park University professors from Iran, Spain, Greece, India, Peru, Afghanistan and the United States presented on socioeconomic, political, legal and ecological 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 Organization. According to **Dimitris Kraniou**, 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 Kraniou. Presentations included: "Habeas 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.; "Faces 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 J. Kraniou, 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"



**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., C.P.A., 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 G.P.A. and are preparing to take the C.P.A. exam. Additionally, students must answer essay questions and

submit faculty recommendations. "After graduation, I hope to work at a C.P.A. firm, pursue my M.B.A. degree at Point Park and study for the C.P.A. exam," said Krueger, who serves as president of the Student Accounting Association. "Professors like **Amy Cesario**, **Cheryl Clark** and **Margaret Gilfillan** 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 C.P.A. 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.

by **Luis Palacios-Salguero**, Ph.D.; and "Forced Migrations: Humanitarian Crisis in the Global System" by **Mohammed Sidky**, 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 M.B.A. in global management and administration student originally from Egypt.



Photo by Alex Papke.

## 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 as an independent band, both financially and legally,” he says. Valen says that he and Kovalchuk also appreciated the opportunity to attend the Pollstar Live! Conference with the SAEM club.

“The opportunity to travel to one of the biggest music industry conferences that brings together industry professionals from across the globe, and get to network with some of these people, was phenomenal,” he says. During an SAEM recording industry class with instructor **Mark Fritzges**, the vice president of promotions for Atlantic Records, Valen had the opportunity to meet Abby Krizner, a DJ and on-air personality. “Mark played our single “New Mexico” during class and Abby said that it would fit well with 105.9 The X’s demographic,” Valen recalls. “After chatting with her after class, we heard “New Mexico” on the radio week later, which was incredible.” Nevada Color released its debut full-length album “Adventures” on May 6, followed by the group’s first U.S. tour from May 9 to 30. Follow the band on Twitter: @NevadaColor.

## Service Learning at Food Bank

Students who took the Human Nutrition class this spring with **Diane Krill**, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, visited the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank as part of their service and learning project. During their visit, the students learned about nutritional challenges the organization faces as well as the logistics of distributing food throughout the Western Pennsylvania region. Following a tour of the facility and a question and answer session with Food Bank nutritionist **Jesse Sharrod**, the Point Park students assisted Food Bank staff with packing items for distribution. **Stephanie Amendola**, a senior health services major who went on the trip, said she chose to pursue a career in the public health field because of her desire to help people 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. I 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 tech-



## CINEMA CLASS IN LONDON AND PARIS

Point Park’s Cinema Workshop class traveled abroad at the end of the spring semester to study British and French filmmaking and culture. Senior Teaching Artist **John Rice** and the group of eight students explored London, Paris and Northern France. As part of the class requirements, students had to prepare, shoot and edit a short film during their trip. “The idea of traveling to and making a film in a new place is enticing to filmmakers,” said Rice. “I was interested in making something a little more rigorous so that there was a practical production experience component to the course. The opportunity to see the students become excited by the change in scenery and their take on these great places

was really a joy for me.” Cinema production major **Bethany Barich** said, “This trip as a whole was a rewarding experience. My educational experience at Point Park has given me the confidence I needed when I’m behind the camera that helps me make my story come to life. Filming in London was very easy and a lot of fun.” In addition to the time the students spent producing their films, they enjoyed academic and cultural visits to Accent London, The Mill, Cinematheque Francaise, Notre Dame Cathedral, Montmartre district of Paris, the Eiffel Tower and a guided visit to the Normandy Invasion beaches during preparations for the 70th anniversary commemorations.

nology, 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** C.P.A., M.B.A., visiting assistant professor of accounting, **Robert Skertich**, Ph.D., assistant professor of public administration, **Helena Knörr**, 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 412-392-8023 or amunsch@pointpark.edu or visit [www.pointpark.edu/highschoolspeaker](http://www.pointpark.edu/highschoolspeaker).

## Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame 2014

Point Park’s Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame has announced its inductees for the Class of 2014: **Dennis Colamarino** (Baseball, 1987-89), **Gavin Prosser** (Men’s Basketball, 2004-07) and **Beth Wertz-Brubach** (Women’s Basketball & Softball, 1983-87). The Class of 2014 will be honored at the 2014 Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on September 27, 2014 in Lawrence Hall on campus. The Induction Ceremony will feature a reception at 5 p.m. and a dinner at 6 p.m. and is a part of the fourth-annual Point Park Athletics Alumni Weekend September 26-28. To register, visit: <http://bit.ly/XdlBbw>. With the addition of Colamarino,

Prosser and Wertz-Brubach for the Class of 2014, the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame will have 52 individuals and one team enshrined. Upon induction, all honorees are enshrined in the Hall of Fame display area in the Point Park University Student Center. The Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 1973 and then re-born in 2000 to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Pioneers student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Nominations are taken from the general public on the Point Park Athletics Website. The Class of 2014 was voted upon and selected by the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.



## 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 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.

## More Than 40 Begin Ed.D. Studies

Point Park has accepted more than 40 doctoral students into its new 54-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 Schwahn 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](http://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.

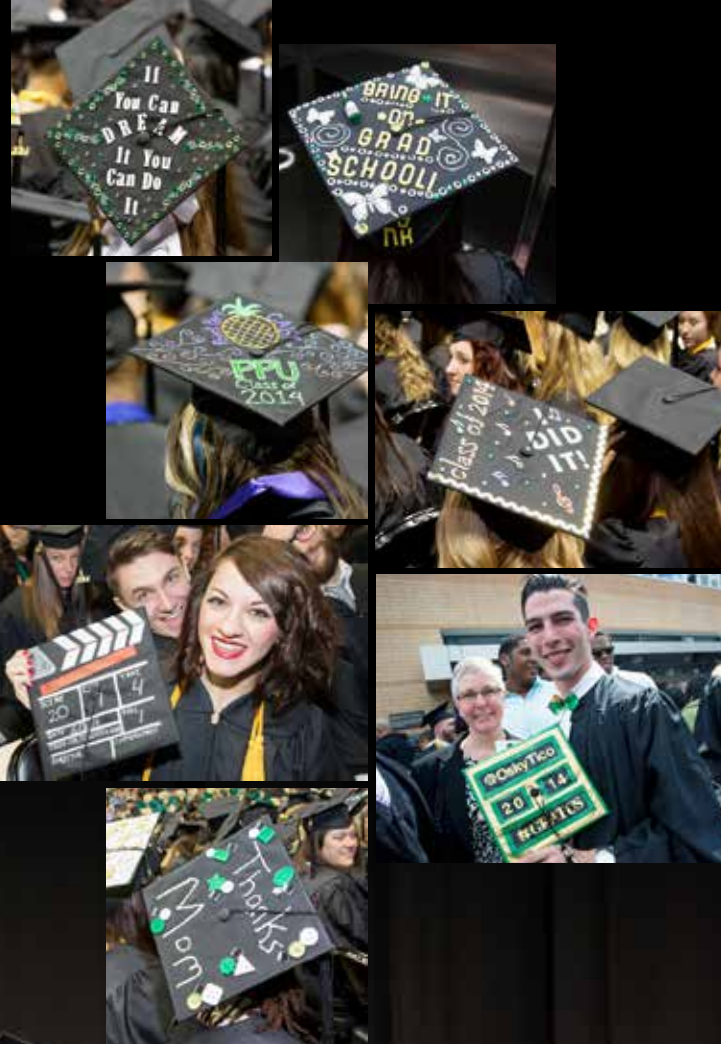
"For our graduates, today is a great day – it is the reward and culmination of several years of disciplined learning. It is also a great day for your families; a time of pride and celebration," President Paul Hennigan said to the students and 4,500 guests.

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](http://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 Pennsylvania Governor 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 Altdorfer.



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

## 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

expertise 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](http://online.pointpark.edu)



# Creativity on Tap

New gastro-pub Hundred Wood stirs up a campus gathering spot

by Cheryl Noyce



Dennis and Melody Scott at Hundred Wood in the Village Park.  
Photos by Martha Rial.

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.



"The Scotts' hardworking commitment to their business, along with their energetic advocacy for Downtown, makes them a great match to our campus community," said Point Park president Paul Hennigan.

## 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'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.

"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. ❖

*I absolutely believe in Point Park University. [Kathleen and I] want to help the University meet current challenges while preparing for the future. 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 (2011)



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

## A Transformational Legacy

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

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).



Photo by Tom Bell.

"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."



Kathleen White receives flowers from Trustees Don Jenkins and Anne Lewis at the dedication of the George Rowland White Performance Center in October 2012. Photos by Jim Judkis.

*I'm glad, that on the journey George and Kathleen traveled, they stopped by Pittsburgh. They changed my life and I want to do the same for someone else: to create a legacy that will impact individual lives. I want their legacy to remain in action.*

—Dr. Herman L. Reid, Jr.  
director of academic outreach, Point Park University, and founder of the BOLD program for middle school students



## Friends for Life

George and Kathleen White are 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 engineering. After two decades with Xerox Corp. in product development and engineering, he transitioned to a career in

higher education, at Harvard University and then the University of Pittsburgh Applied Research Center. The latter position brought him and his wife Kathleen, a math and science graduate of Purdue University and a talented 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, C.P.A., 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."

## 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."

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, acquirement and exposure experiences for middle school students in urban schools.

## Impacting Lives

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," he recalls.

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."

"I don't want George and Kathleen White to be forgotten. I want their legacy to remain in action."

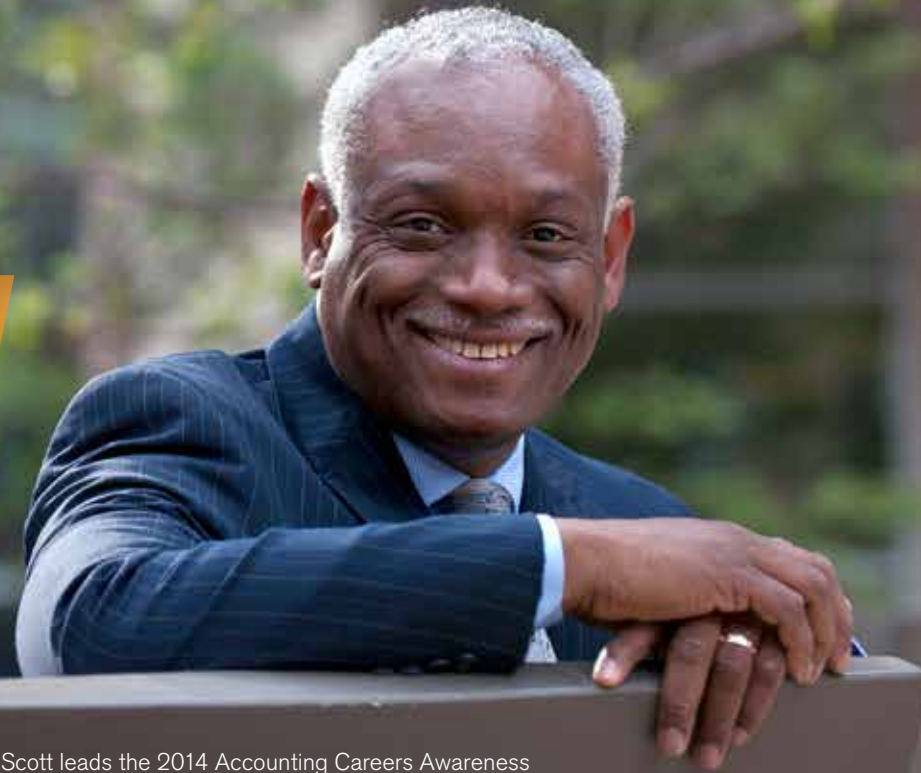


### Point Extra:

See a video interview with Dr. Herman Reid at [www.pointpark.edu/thepoint](http://www.pointpark.edu/thepoint)

*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



Professor Ed Scott leads the 2014 Accounting Careers Awareness Program (ACAP) at Point Park. Photos by Martha Rial.



## Good Business

### Alumnus Ed Scott holds endowed professorship, leads Urban Accounting Initiative at Point Park

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.”



### Point Extra:

See a video interview with Ed Scott at [www.pointpark.edu/the-point](http://www.pointpark.edu/the-point)

*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)



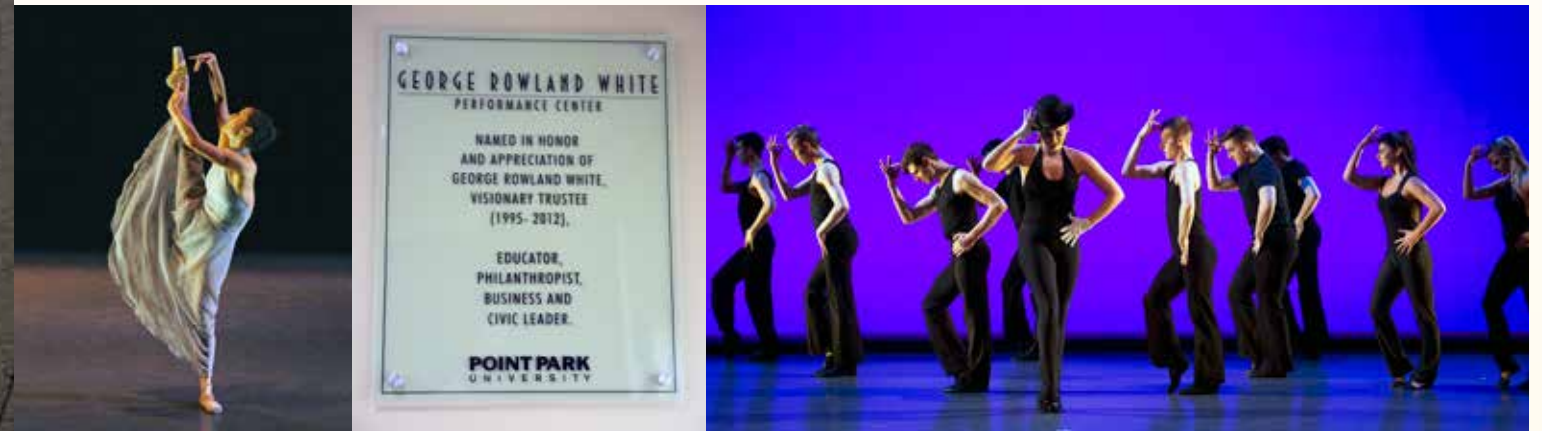
## By George

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. ❖



## POWERFUL AND TRANSFORMING.

**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 412-392-8097 or [rhaskins@pointpark.edu](mailto: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.

# ROBERTO CLEMENTE MUSICAL "21" AND MORE

## 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* (starring Jeff Goldblum and Ed Begley Jr.), *The Pajama Game* and *Bells Are Ringing*.

The CTC will also present William Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, *As You Like It*, directed by John Amplas, the musicals *Urinetown*, directed by Zeva Barzell and *The Boy Friend*, directed by Jack Allison, and Tennessee Williams' timeless classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, directed by Martin Giles.

### Of Mice and Men at The REP

The 2014-2015 season of The REP, Point Park's professional theatre company, will include two world premieres by Pittsburgh playwrights, a classic by Nobel laureate John Steinbeck and a hilarious comedy about an American singer renowned for her lack of rhythm, tone and especially an ability to sing. The season, which runs Sept. 5 through April 12, opens with Steinbeck's timeless tale of two migrant workers in the Great Depression, *Of Mice and Men*, directed by Robert A. Miller, Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts Distinguished Master Artist-in-Residence. The REP will next present Tomé Cousin directing *Souvenir*, Stephen Temperley's uproarious and poignant comedy

about the infamous soprano Florence Foster Jenkins, whose inability to carry a tune did not prevent her from selling out Carnegie Hall. Variety called the play, "A beguiling comic jewel with a heart," and The Boston Globe raved, "There aren't many theatrical experiences as good as *Souvenir*."

The REP's season will also include two world premieres of works by Pittsburgh playwrights – Gab Cody's riotous farce, *Prussia: 1866*, directed by Kim Martin, and Anthony McKay's stirring family drama *Endless Lawns*, directed by Greg Lehane.

### Nicolas Petrov's Romeo and Juliet

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 country, Playhouse Jr. features acting, musical theatre, stage management and technical theatre/design students both on and off stage at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. ❖



Opposite left; Photo of Clemente's locker by Duane Reider. Other photos by Jeff Swenson.



## ON STAGE THIS FALL AND SPRING

### The REP

#### Of Mice and Men

By John Steinbeck  
Directed by Robert A. Miller  
Sept. 5–21  
Rauh Theater

#### Souvenir

By Stephen Temperley  
Directed by Tomé Cousin  
Sept. 26–Oct. 12  
Studio Theater

#### Prussia: 1866

By Gab Cody  
Directed by Kim Martin  
Feb. 6–22  
Rauh Theater

#### Endless Lawns

By Anthony McKay  
Directed by Greg Lehane  
March 27–April 12  
Studio Theatre

### Conservatory Theatre Company

#### "21"

Book, music, and lyrics by Alki Steriopoulos  
Directed by Richard Sabellico  
Oct. 17–26  
Rockwell Theater

#### As You Like It

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by John Amplas  
Nov. 7–23  
Studio Theater

#### Urinetown

Book by Greg Kotis  
Music by Mark Hollmann, lyrics by Kotis & Hollmann  
Directed by Zeva Barzell  
Dec. 9–14  
Rauh Theater

#### The Boy Friend

Book, music and lyrics by Sandy Wilson  
Directed by Jack Allison  
Feb. 27–March 15  
Rockwell Theatre

#### A Streetcar Named Desire

By Tennessee Williams  
Directed by Martin Giles  
April 17–26  
Rauh Theatre

### Conservatory Dance Company

#### Student Choreography Project

Oct. 3–5  
GRW Performance Studio

#### Contemporary Choreographers

Nov. 14–23  
GRW Performance Studio

#### Romeo and Juliet

Choreography by Nicolas Petrov  
Music by Sergei Prokofiev  
Dec. 5–14  
Rockwell Theatre

#### Conservatory Dance Company at the Byham Theater

March 20–22  
Byham Theater (Downtown)

#### Point Park Connections

April 10–12  
GRW Performance Studio

#### Conservatory Dance Company at Point Park University

Choreography by dance faculty  
April 17–26  
GRW Performance Studio

### Playhouse Jr.

#### A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare  
May 9–24  
Rockwell Theater

#### Luna

By Ramon Esquivel  
May 9–24  
Studio Theatre

#### Jungalbook

By Edward Mast  
Adapted from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Books*  
May 23–June 7  
Rauh Theater

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR ALUMNI

Point Park alumni receive a 50 percent discount off regular ticket prices. Visit or call the box office: 412-392-8000. For information on the 2014-2015 Playhouse season, including subscriptions, tickets and alumni discounts, visit [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com).

## ON THE AIR: *THE CHAIR*

University-produced docuseries airs this fall on the Starz Channel



Photos of *The Chair* set, this page and left, by Martha Rial. All photos on following three pages by Sarah Cunningham.



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."

The docuseries follows two up-and-coming directors, Shane Dawson and Anna Martemucci, as they compete to make two separate feature films from the same script by Dan Schoffer. The plot is a coming-of-age comedy about a group of former high school classmates who return home from college for Thanksgiving. Both directors have the same budget and, through multiplatform voting, the audience will determine which director will be awarded \$250,000.

Dawson is currently one of the biggest stars on YouTube as a result of his comedy channel. He recently sold a half-hour sitcom based on his life to NBC. Martemucci is a writer, actress and producer, often assuming all three roles for a film. She's best known for *Before After* (2010), *Periods* (2012) and *Breakup at a Wedding* (2013).

### Hollywood Veterans

*The Chair* is produced by veteran Hollywood producer Chris Moore, and Pittsburgh native and renowned actor Zachary



Producer Chris Moore speaks to students on campus.

### 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 Nelson Chipman, associate professor of cinema arts and University liaison for the production. "We are excited that the start of the show coincided with the start of our new academic year. It's thrilling to not only see Point Park and Pittsburgh profiled on the national stage, but also a great way to highlight all the work current students and alums have done on the project," he added.

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.

## 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 recently had the opportunity to be the co-ordinator 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."



Moore has served as producer or executive producer on such films as *Good Will Hunting*, *Glory Daze*, *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.



## 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."

Reporting on alumni profiles  
by Abigail Mathieu (COM '14).



# ALUMNI CONNECTION ▶



The Bridge, a new email newsletter for alumni, is a convenient vehicle to identify opportunities to make a difference. Please contact us at [alumni@pointpark.edu](mailto:alumni@pointpark.edu) if you aren't already receiving the monthly e-newsletter.

This fall, you can tune in to the Starz Channel to see the new docuseries *The Chair*, filmed at Point Park and in Pittsburgh, which follows two young directors as they compete to make a movie (from the same script) and showcases the talents of more than 100 University students and alumni. This project, and the opportunity seized by alumni and students, is a terrific metaphor that speaks to sharing your talents with our

University. Consider lending your professional talents to our career services initiatives; we need alumni to serve as contacts for internships and job shadowing, participate in mock interviews, resume reviews and more.

With the bustle 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 forward to seeing and speaking with you soon to begin your engagement. Please stay in touch at [alumni@pointpark.edu](mailto:alumni@pointpark.edu).

Sincerely,

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

My fellow alumni,

Often, alumni believe that to be a graduate of a university means only that you are obligated and expected to gift thousands of dollars a year to your alma mater. Fortunately, this is not reality.

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 callers group and preparing to begin calls (in January) to each prospective student who visits Point Park. We are also seeking alumni to complete a campus-based training seminar in order to serve as recruitment ambassadors who represent Point Park at college fairs around the country.

# CLASS NOTES ▶

## ▶ 1970s

**D'Arcy Webb** (COPA 1975), a professor of voice and speech at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, is the 2014 recipient of the university's President's Distinguished Teaching Award. According to the UArts website, Webb teaches cabaret performance in addition to voice and speech and is "known in some circles as the Speech Diva. ... Over the years she has played a large number of roles, both in New York and regionally, more recently, soigné society dames, deranged housewives and toothless old crones — with passion, humanity and panache. She is grateful to her mother for a few good genes that have kept her body supple and resilient, so when a director stages a 10 minute scene in a dog crate the size of a FedEx box, she can fold herself into it quite handily and still speak articulately and with ardor. Webb specializes in speech production and accent reduction, and offers private coaching to actors and other professionals who wish to free their speech of regionalisms and speak clearly, vividly and with passion."

**Joseph L. Walker** (COM 1973) writes, "I recently semi-retired after a career in the newspaper business and public relations spanning 40 years. Since 1999, I have owned and operated my own public relations consultancy, serving clients in the Washington, D.C. region. Prior to that, I spent more than six years working for a daily newspaper, and 20 years doing public relations work for industrial clients. I look back on my time at (then) Point Park College for giving me the foundation for a successful life and career. I still do a small amount of work for two Washington-based trade associations." Walker now resides in central Florida.

**Jill (Marsh) Keating** (COPA 1978) appeared in the Bricolage Production Company's "In The Raw Festival (R)evolution" in summer 2014. The production involved a four-week

creative process, after which two new devised works were produced in revolving repertory fashion over the last two weekends in August. This fall, Keating performs with The REP as the infamous soprano Florence Foster Jenkins, in Stephen Temperley's *Souvenir*, at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Fellow alumnus and Broadway veteran **Tomé Cousin** (COPA 1982) directs the comedy. Keating began her theater career singing as a child with Igor Stravinsky in his *Persephone*. She later studied dance and became a professional ballerina with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. New York City credits include Roger Miller's Tony award-winning *Big River* and productions in Jay Harnick's Theatreworks USA. Since returning to Pittsburgh, she's appeared in The Pittsburgh Public Theater's production of *Born Yesterday*. Her play, *Bored of Education*, was produced in the 2013 Pittsburgh New Works Festival. According to Keating, a turning point in her life was meeting her future husband, **John Keating** (COM 1975), on the bridge at Point Park.



## ▶ 1980s

**Rob Ashford** (COPA 1983, HON '10) acclaimed director and choreographer, collaborated (as co-director) with Kenneth Branagh on a production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, which starred the legendary British actor-director. The production opened in summer 2013 in Manchester, England and moved to New York's Park Avenue Armory in June 2014. According to TheaterMania, "The immersive production, which originated at the Manchester International Festival, serves as Branagh's New York stage debut and Ashford's first time working on a Shakespeare play. Ashford spoke with TheaterMania about collaborating with those titans of the stage — Branagh and Shakespeare — and shared his thoughts on why this experience is unlike any other." Read the entire Q&A here: <http://bit.ly/SOgiMu>.

## ▶ 1990s

**Jamie Frey** (COM 1999) has accepted a position as studio operations director for 1080 WWNL Pittsburgh. The station is part of the Wilkins Radio Network.

**Stacey Allen** (A&S 1996, 2007) writes, "As a Point Park alumna, with both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University, I am proud to share the ways in which my education and experience has allowed me to take my career to the next level. In June of 2013, New York City's Department of Mental Health and Hygiene presented me with the opportunity to build and operate a pilot program that provides rapid response psychiatric services to children and adolescents in the Bronx. As a result of its success, and the efforts of our great team, this program has been funded and expanded into two new boroughs, which launched in July 2014. I always look back at my experience at Point Park as the time when I, an adult student with a full-time job and family responsibilities, was able to

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 programs!" 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 Cranston, in both the 1997 workshop and 1998 Broadway productions. ... Coincidentally, Elizabeth was born during the Broadway run of *Footloose*, and her baby shower 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*." Read the entire Post-Gazette article: <http://bit.ly/1qN506E>.



**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 the Go. The restaurant, named after his daughter, "features interesting breakfast sandwich combinations, lunchtime favorites featuring only the finest ingredients, pastas that would rival the best fine dining restaurants around, and gourmet soups daily – all at affordable prices," according to Ziccardi. Gabriella's delivers both breakfast and lunch and does catering for groups: from four to 50 people. Gabriella's Gourmet on the Go is located at 301 E. Carson Street near Station Square. Call 412-481-GABS (4227).

#### ► 2000s

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

## DROP US A NOTE!

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



**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."

#### ► 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 eBooks, Kobo, Barnes & Noble, Oyster, Scribd, Overdrive, and other library apps. Cotter's narrative essay *Paper Dragons* was likewise published later in June. *Clara* and *Paper Dragons* were featured on WestofMars.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](http://faithcotter.wordpress.com).



**Justin Morgan** (A&S '10) is an English teacher at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh and executive vice president of the Federation of Pittsburgh Diocesan Teachers Local 2400. He earned his degree in secondary education English at Point Park. Morgan says he was attracted to Central Catholic's "philosophy of Lasallian education and teaching in a community setting. I remember saying that teaching at Central Catholic felt more like a vocation than just a want or need of a job." A Navy veteran, Morgan benefited from the G.I. Bill and says he chose Point Park in part because of "ample scholarships and a convenient location centered around many part-time job opportunities." In teaching, he says, "I strive to follow Central Catholic's mission to foster a life of faith and learning. We (my students and myself) use critical thinking and writing to explore the emotional and spiritual depths of literature. In turn, we use a variety of classic and modern literature as a catalyst to exploring the philosophy of humanity and what creates a man of faith, scholarship and service."

**Angela Semple** (COPA '13) is producing a short film, *All Raccoons Are Bandits*, based on an original script that won second place in the Cinema Arts Department's screenplay competition two years ago. Semple describes the film as "a screwball dramedy set in 1882; the tale of small-time scoundrel Rocky Snodgrass, who fell in love with the local policeman's daughter. Every crew member is either an alumnus or a current student; two cast members are COPA alumni and Randy Kovitz, an adjunct acting/directing professor, is playing the villain." For more information, visit the film's IndieGoGo fundraising project page: <http://igg.me/at/allraccoonsfilm>.

**Peter Frenchak** (BUS '14) has started graduate school at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is studying for a master's degree in health services administration. He earned his undergraduate degree in public administration with a concentration in EMS administration at Point Park in 2014.

**Autumn Shuty** (A&S '12) earned a graduate certificate in Genocide and Holocaust Studies from Seton Hill University in May 2014. She received her bachelor's degree in education at Point Park.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Anthony "Tony" Myers** (BUS '13) passed away on July 16, 2014. He was 30 years old. His obituary described him as the beloved son of Steve Myers and Linda Myers; loving brother of Stuart Myers; cherished grandson of Sheila Parfitt, and the late Geoff Parfitt, and John Myers, and the late Ruth Myers; Tony was a beloved cousin, uncle, nephew, godfather and a friend to many. He was a 2003 graduate of Fox Chapel High School and a graduate of Point Park University with an accounting degree. He served with the U.S. Navy. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggested memorial contributions to the Wounded Warrior Project, 301 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

## PIONEERS ACROSS THE POND



When **Susan Orr** (COM 1993) traveled to London on a long-anticipated family vacation in summer 2014, she had the opportunity to reconnect with **Kathleen Donnelly**, her former Point Park journalism and communications professor, who now teaches at Birmingham City University near the British capital. According to Orr, they reminisced over a lunch in London and marked the occasion with a snapshot. "I'm wearing my Point Park shirt," says Orr, "and Kathleen is wearing Pittsburgh black and gold!" Where have your travels taken you in your Point Park gear? Send us a photo at [thepoint@pointpark.edu](mailto:thepoint@pointpark.edu).

# SPORTS CHAT

## A Conversation with Dan Swalga, 2014 KIAC Athletics Director of the Year, on the Rise of the Pioneers

**W**ithin 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 Midwest 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.

Dan Swalga at Highmark Stadium, home of Pioneer Soccer. Photo by Martha Rial.



Point Park baseball is pictured after winning the 2014 KIAC Tournament in Kingsport, Tenn. It was the second conference title in a row for the Pioneers, who made the NAIA national tournament for the third consecutive year.

**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



Point Park softball players (L to R): Ashley Morran, Karen Mao and Hannah Harley pose with their All-KIAC awards after being selected to the all-conference first team.

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 KIAC and 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 alums 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



The Pioneers' women's golf team took home hardware at the conference tournament after placing second in the KIAC. Karina Palmberg (center) won the individual conference title to qualify for the NAIA national tournament as the first-ever Point Park women's golfer at nationals. (L to R): Rilyn Gancia, Chloe Callison, Karina Palmberg, Emily Slifka and Caroline Collins.

► **BASEBALL**

Pioneers won the conference title for the second year in a row as the 2014 KIAC Tournament champions. That qualified Point Park for the NAIA national tournament for the third straight season, a distinction that only 12 other schools in the country have. The Pioneers, under head coach Loren Torres, had a record of 40-18 overall to register the eighth 20-win season in program history. The Pioneers now have a combined 21 conference and district titles in their 47-year history of baseball.

► **SOFTBALL**

Point Park finished in second place in the KIAC regular season standings with a record of 26-17 overall and an impressive 19-8 in the KIAC. The Pioneers came up short in the 2014 KIAC Tournament, but they ran their streak to four seasons in a row finishing in second place in their conference tournament or regular season. During that time, head coach Michelle Coultas' team has averaged 26 wins per year.

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

► **MEN'S GOLF**

The Pioneers and head coach Gabe Bubon made it back-to-back appearances in the NAIA national tournament with a return trip to NAIAs in the 2013-14 season. Point Park competed in the national tournament May 13-16, 2014 in Daytona Beach, Fla., and finished 27th in the country. The Pioneers qualified by winning the KIAC Tournament in April 2014, their third straight conference championship.

► **WOMEN'S GOLF**

Point Park finished second in the conference for the second year in a row under head coach Gabe Bubon. The Pioneers were third in the Unaffiliated Group Tournament, which was second among KIAC teams. Senior Karina Palmberg placed first individually at the conference tourney to become the school's first-ever qualifier for the NAIA national tournament. In all, Point Park had several high tournament finishes during the year as it finished in second place in four of the seven tournaments in 2013-14.

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



# SPORTS ROUNDUP

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. ♦*



**Point Extra:**

For more news, visit [www.pointpark.edu/athletics](http://www.pointpark.edu/athletics)

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-Nov. 1, 2014

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