

# THE POINT

Fall 2009

**Alumna  
Takes  
Dance  
Career  
to New  
Heights**

**Finding Your  
Place in the  
Workplace**

**Gov. Rendell Addresses  
49th Commencement**



Dear alumni and friends,

I am pleased to report our recent progress as we enter the 2009 – 2010 academic year. We are opening this fall semester with 1,000 beds on campus and a new home for the School of Business in the former West Penn Building. As the Academic Village at Point Park University begins to unfold through the completion of initial projects, we are gaining momentum for upcoming projects that will transform the streetscape at the heart of our campus and accentuate the external architecture at the future site of our student center. In addition, we are in the process of finalizing plans for the ground breaking of our new park this spring.

We have all had to step back and take a look at what is important personally and professionally, as we have seen so many things change around us. Like many organizations and institutions, Point Park has taken this opportunity to focus on core values and long-term investments. Our introspection supports the vision for our University to become one of the most dynamic private, urban universities in America. Our strategic investment in Point Park's future adds value to those who were here before, those who are here now and those to come in the future.

I am inspired by the support from our Board of Trustees, legislators and alumni. Their encouragement of our vision and affirmation of our efforts validates our mission, and their support extends to others in the community. I recently received a letter from Suzanne Broughton, president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, which illustrates this sentiment. Suzanne was impressed by the involvement of four Conservatory of Performing Arts students who participated in a Pittsburgh Camerata concert she recently attended. Suzanne went on to express her admiration for Point Park's collaboration with community organizations and outreach to the Pittsburgh community. Through letters like Suzanne's, I am reminded about our University's deeply integrated relationship with the Pittsburgh community.

This issue of The Point shares stories of hope, examples of service and promise for the future. Thanks to those who participated in the reader survey we promoted in the last edition, we received many good suggestions and positive feedback about The Point. We hope you will enjoy this issue and more to come as we implement some exciting changes.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan  
President



Photo by Ric Evans

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**On the Cover:** Kiesha Lalama-White, choreographer, faculty member in the Conservatory of Performing Arts and alumna, at center. Clockwise from upper right: James Washington, Shonica Gooden, Ahmad Simmons and Naila Ansari in costume for Rise.

Photo by Ric Evans

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Comments and suggestions are welcome!  
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Point Park University educates students in a diverse environment and prepares graduates to apply knowledge to achieve their goals, advance their professions and serve their communities.

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enjoyed the last edition and I was very pleased to see the cover. I enjoyed his column. I hear from you.

# Letters to the Editor

Without the chance that Point Park gave me, I would never have become a university professor. Back in 1967, I graduated from Richland High School in Johnstown Pa. My grades were very poor from high school, due to being sick three out of nine months of school. But Point Park allowed me to take a semester of remedial work (algebra, English and so on). If I passed these courses they would allow me in as a full time student. I made it, and enrolled in mechanical engineering technology.

I was very lucky to have two very special professors there. My calculus professor tutored me on the side because I was missing so much class time, due to sickness. Another professor, who taught me strength of materials, told me that I should continue my studies after earning my associate's degree from Point Park. I did go on to two universities and became not only a mechanical engineer, but also a professor. Even though I had a rough time with calculus at Point Park, I ended up a few courses shy of a second Ph.D. in mathematics. During the years that I worked, I received many awards for my research and teaching. Life shot me down in 1992: I became disabled and home bound. I was born with a very rare disease, the one that caused me so much sickness, and it ended my career.

I am now writing a graduate/post graduate textbook on the mathematics of a neuron. I never thought that back in 1967 I would be the one in front of the classroom, nor someone with enough education to write a textbook. If it was not for Point Park and some very special people there, I would never have the title of professor, nor would I be writing a textbook.

Those years at Point Park are some of the very best times in my life.

Thank you,  
Dr. Jake Trexel (A&S, 1970)



When I was attending Point Park, 1975-80, I was the business-advertising manager who started a two-page student newspaper, the Point Park Pioneer. Our editor was the J&C Department head, Dr. Vincent LaBarbra. After four years, we grew to 12-15 pages and went from being totally funded, to paying our own way through revenue from advertising. After college I went on to work for Ruben H. Donnelley, the national yellow pages publisher. My question is, do you still publish the Pioneer? I would love to see what happened to it.

Thank You,  
Jim Caskowski (COM 1980)

**Editor's Response**  
The Pioneer is alive and well. The news magazine continues as a student endeavor to gain experience in the responsible presentation of opinion and fact. It is produced by the students of Publication Production I & II and distributed on campus.



### Professional Advancement

**Paige Beal** and **Jamie Grady**, assistant professors in the School of Business, presented the luncheon keynote address "From the Big Screen to the Small - Mobile Marketing and the Arts" during the Arts Reach National Arts Marketing Conference in New York City. The event was held at New York University March 15 and 16. Grady and Beal's presentation underscored the importance of cell phones in arts patrons' lives and the opportunities mobile media offer arts organizations to connect with their stakeholders.



Paige Beal and Jamie Grady.

Arts administrators representing organizations such as Brooklyn Museum, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Metropolitan Opera, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Two River Theater Company and the United States Air Force Band attended the three-day event that focused on cultivating the next generation of audiences in part through technology.

### news & views

**Dane S. Claussen, Ph.D.**, professor and director of graduate programs for the School of Communication, joined a panel of experts at the annual Joint Journalism Historians Meeting to discuss selection of core books in the discipline of journalism and mass communication. The session was held on March 14 at Manhattan Marymount College in New York City. Other panelists included **Laurel Leff** from Northeastern University, **Frank Fee** from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, **Nancy Roberts** from The University at Albany and **Joe Cutbirth** from Columbia University.

Claussen is a former head/program chair of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's (AEJMC) History Division and is a long-time member of the American Journalism Historians Association, for whose scholarly journal (*American Journalism*) he reviews manuscripts. His latest book, *Anti-intellectualism in American Media: Magazines and Higher*

*Education*, is a hybrid history and cultural study of American media covering the period from 1944 to 1996. Claussen also is an editorial board member of the scholarly journal *Journalism History*.

**Helena Knörr, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the School of Business, presented "Women entrepreneurs: a comparison between Spain and the U.S." at the University of Valladolid in Spain in June. Her research focuses on organizational behavior and leadership, career development, women in leadership, organization development, organization culture, ethics in the workplace, and work-family balance. Dr. Knörr teaches graduate courses in organizational leadership and business administration.

**Diane Krill, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology, delivered a guest seminar at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in

Atlanta, Ga., in February. The audience was comprised of a number of physicians and scientific researchers whose work at the CDC centers on cancer prevention. Krill discussed the role of vitamins, particularly Vitamins A and D, in cellular differentiation and disease. Her research has been focused on developmental biology, specifically cell differentiation.

**Bill Moushey**, assistant professor for the School of Communication and director of the University's Innocence Institute, finished in second place in the investigative category of the Associated Press Sports Editors' (APSE) annual writing contest. Moushey was recognized for his stories focusing on the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association's (PIAA) hiring policies and the fact that PIAA does not require criminal background checks on game officials. Moushey's research uncovered evidence that several working and former PIAA officials had been arrested or charged with crimes.

## With support from the Fund for Student Success at Point Park University, one less student is left behind...



- Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of our students.
- Strong alumni participation helps increase Point Park's ranking for alumni support.
- With the increasing changes in federal funding, a weakening economy and family struggles, students face more challenges than ever before. Your support, now more than ever, helps to keep their dream of a college education alive despite the times.

To donate online or for more information, visit [www.pointpark.edu/annualfund](http://www.pointpark.edu/annualfund) or call 412-392-3999.



The stories were the catalyst for requiring that all PIAA officials obtain background checks.



**New Dean Appointed for School of Communication**

Point Park University has hired **Timothy J. Hudson, Ph.D.**, as the first dean of the new School of Communication. In his new role, Hudson will provide

educational leadership in the development of the new School of Communication and function as the visionary for the school's programmatic advancement.

"Dr. Hudson's appointment as the first dean of the School of Communication is an integral part of Point Park's overarching vision for growth," said Charles Perkins, Ph.D., provost. "Dr. Hudson's experience with establishing programs, responding to work force needs and focusing on global communications made him an excellent choice to lead the new School of Communication."

Hudson joins Point Park from East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., where he served as founding director of the School of Communication. While there, Hudson was successful in implementing the first graduate degree program in health communication and designed an international media management graduate degree program.

In addition to serving as full professor of journalism and communication at East Carolina University from 2005-09, Hudson served as associate director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication from 1991-99 as well as director of journalism and mass communication graduate programs from 1991-2001 at the University of Oklahoma. Prior to that, Hudson was assistant professor of communication and director of television at Elizabethtown

College in Lancaster County, Pa., from 1985-89.

Hudson has experience in teaching and academic administration, finance and strategic planning, facilities design, planning and supervision, faculty governance, fundraising, curriculum design and assessment, broadcast journalism, and development and supervision of international exchange programs.

A graduate of Eastern New Mexico University, where he double-majored in theater and communication, Hudson also earned his master's degree in communication there and was named Outstanding Graduate Student in Mass Communication. He earned his doctor of philosophy in mass communication from Temple University in Philadelphia, receiving the Abe Schechter Graduate Scholarship Award from the Radio-Television News Directors' Association in 1989.

Hudson is an active member of the Broadcast Education Association, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, International Association for Media and Communication Research, National Communication Association, and the International Communication Association. Hudson will be featured in a Q&A in the winter edition of The Point.

Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., speaks to Point Park students on February 19.



Photo by Tom Bell



**Mix It Up!**

Point Park's Office of Alumni Relations assisted University schools and departments in planning and hosting spring and summer mixers for alumni. The School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business and School of Communication brought alumni back to campus to mingle with faculty and colleagues over drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the newly renovated Lawrence Hall lobby.

**Specter Visits Point Park**

**Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa.**, visited the University to conduct a town hall meeting on Feb. 19. The event, which was held in the GRW Theater at the University Center, was free and open to the public and the senator took questions regarding regional, state and national issues. During his visit, Specter announced \$95,000 in federal support for construction of a crime scene house for the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies.



**Brackets Benefit**

On March 16, the first-ever Brackets 101 fundraiser at Point Park University raised approximately \$11,000 for the **Myron Cope** Scholarship. The scholarship honors Cope's journalistic accomplishments and will be awarded to full-time undergraduate students majoring in print journalism or broadcasting in the School of Communication. The luncheon event prepared fans for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Tournament and was emceed by radio sports talk host, **Ellis Cannon**, and a panel of basketball experts, including **Bob Pompeani** (COM 1982, HON 1997), KDKA sports reporter, and **Tony DeFazio**, editor of Pittsburgh Sports Reports. **Andy Russell**, former Pittsburgh Steelers player, and **Elizabeth Cope**, Myron Cope's daughter, were in attendance.

Event sponsors included The Pittsburgh Steelers, Russell Charitable Foundation, Federated Investors, Williams Coulson LLC, Massaro Corporation, Tucker Arensberg and Duncan Financial. To contribute to the Myron Cope Scholarship, please contact the Office of University Advancement at 421-392-8099.

**School of Communication Awarded New Digital Media Lab**

Point Park's School of Communication was awarded a \$53,000 grant as part of the Keystone Innovation Starter Kit Program of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in March. The grant will go toward the purchase of equipment for a new digital media lab. The grant was made possible by **Governor Edward G. Rendell**.

**Outstanding Seniors**

The Point Park Alumni Association honored three students at its annual Senior Luncheon on April 9. **Michelle Cosgrove**, English major,



**Brittany Bradley**, theater arts major, and **Joshua Manculich**, dance major, were recipients of the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award. The luncheon featured a Pittsburgh-themed meal with pirogues and Primanti Brothers-style sandwiches. A photo booth served as a popular attraction for students who lined up to be photographed with their friends.

**On the Move**

The Conservatory Dance Company, Point Park's student dance company, presented *On the Move*, a concert

of original dance pieces choreographed by several accomplished faculty members. The concert took place at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, the performing arts center of Point Park University, in Oakland April 9 through 11. **Doug Bentz**, professor, premiered *Transmigration of Souls*, a distinctly passionate and spiritually metaphorical expression of the essence of the human spirit as it leaves the body. The piece was set to music by John Adams as a commemoration of the first anniversary of 9/11. **Nicolas Petrov**, senior professor of dance, presented *Fantasia* with music by **Jose Serebrier**, featuring a projection of **Salvador Dali's** painting, "Kiss." It is a revival of a ballet choreographed in 1976 for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, which opened in Heinz Hall the same year. The story follows a love triangle involving a young woman and two young soldiers drafted to Vietnam. **Peter LeBreton Merz**, assistant professor, presented *Fingerspitzengefühl*, meaning "instinctive knowledge" as an exploration of how some knowledge seems to pass from person to person without any communication. **Kiesha Lalama-White**, dance instructor, presented *Auspicious Encounters*, an exploration of the fortunate encounters that we embrace in our lives, and **Ron Tassone**,

professor, presented an energetic, explosive jazz piece titled *Kooza*.

In addition, Merz premiered a new work titled *Certainty* at NewMoves Contemporary Dance Festival on May 7 at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater in East Liberty. According to Merz's artist statement, *Certainty* can be viewed as an emotional response to something beyond the facts involved. The duet involves two dancers in almost constant physical contact without the use of their hands.

**Cultivating a Competitive Edge**

Point Park students are standing out amongst the competition in the Business Idea Challenge sponsored by the Pittsburgh Central Keystone Innovation Zone (PCKIZ). **Dan McVeagh** (BUS '09) won grand prize for his Compu Table UI, a multi-touch computer table, in the second annual competition held at Point Park on April 14 in the Lawrence Hall lobby.

Dan McVeagh and William Generette, executive director of PCKIZ.



Several other Point Park students were recognized in the first round of the competition. **Nigel Wright**, MBA student, captured second place with his Paper Bot concept. **Sarah Urick** and **David Clark**, junior business management major and junior sports, arts and entertainment management major respectively, rounded out the group with a third place win for their Wake Up Widget concept. Students from Point Park,



Duquesne University and Carlow University presented their business ideas before a panel of judges. Three winners were selected for each university, with the first place winners advancing to the final presentation. **Jessica Goughler** (BUS '08) won the grand prize in the 2008 competition.

The PCKIZ is a public private partnership whose mission is to increase job growth by assisting technology, biomedical, information technology and material science companies.

**Watch Out Broadway!**

The second annual Broadway Bound event raised funds to support student participation in the 2009 New York and Los Angeles Showcases. The event was sponsored by the Conservatory Circle and founded by **John Tomayko, Ph.D.** Guests sampled fine wines and hors d'oeuvres and were entertained by piano-side medleys of Broadway musical hits performed by Conservatory of Performing Arts students. A silent auction was held in the outdoor garden of the James Gallery on April 25. The showcase serves as a launching pad for careers in film, television and theater. **Jack Allison** and **John Shepard**, chair of the Department of Theatre, founded the showcase in 2003. This year's showcase is directed by **Zeva Barzell** and **Shirley Tannenbaum**.

**Green and Gold Happenings**

The Green and Gold Society participated in a community service project at the Washington Area Humane Society on April 26. Students spent the day painting the exterior of 34 dog kennels.



documenting its efforts to meet standards set by the United States Department of Education. The newest accreditation process also includes providing evidence-based analysis and measurements of compliance by various programs.

The University began the current self-review process last year and has formed 14 subcommittees, consisting of staff, faculty, students and administration. These groups will study each standard and begin the process of compiling data and key information for the report. The goal is to study not only Point Park's strengths, but also to make recommendations for areas that need improvement.

As an example, the 2000 self study recommended that the university move toward Web-based student services that are "fast, efficient, convenient and accessible, and that may have a beneficial impact on student satisfaction and retention." The Periodic Review Report of 2006 shows that the University complied by developing the Point Web portal system that allows students to access account balance information, unofficial transcripts, class schedules, online registration and payments.

"The results of the self study and periodic review are fair, open and honest assessments; they will be the basis for the 2010 self study," notes **Johnna Maryak**, coordinator for accreditation and state compliance in the Office of the Provost. "While it is important for us to become reaccredited, the process makes us a stronger institution because we are involved in a continuous cycle of self-improvement."

The final report will be completed in fall 2010 followed by a site visit by peers from the Middle States Commission in spring 2011.

**Taking the Lead in Leadership**

**Angela Nelson**, junior advertising and public relations major and member of the volleyball team, participated in a two-week Red Cross/ National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Youth Leadership Program at the Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., in June. Nelson was selected as one of 13 student athletes from the NAIA. She and the other students received scholarship support from the Red Cross and State Farm Insurance, sponsors of the program. Civic and business leaders trained participants to uncover their leadership potential through organizing blood drives, participating on a leadership board and cultural competency training.

**Point Park Begins Rigorous Accreditation Self Study Process**

Point Park University is in the process of conducting a self-study for accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The review takes place every 10 years and involves a rigorous review of every aspect of the University as a way of

**Earn Your MBA in 36 30 Credits**

The School of Business will waive six credits in the MBA program for those who have completed a bachelor's degree in accounting with the school. For only 30 credits, qualifying candidates can complete the program in less than one year (over the course of a fall, spring and summer semester). Point Park MBA grads with a bachelor's degree in accounting will meet the required 150 credits for licensure as a certified public accountant, which takes effect in 2012 in Pennsylvania. Evening and Saturday classes are available at Point Park's Downtown or Cranberry campuses. Alumni are eligible for a tuition discount and may also apply for financial aid.

**Lawrence Hall Gallery Exhibits Oil Paintings by Frank Herbert Mason**

The lobby of Lawrence Hall is home to a new gallery with rotating exhibits presented

by the University in conjunction with TomaykoArt. The first exhibit features the work of the award-winning artist **Frank Herbert Mason**. The collection features 18 oil paintings that span the last 50 years of Mason's career, including landscapes, figures, still life and religious subjects. Mason's painting techniques are reminiscent of the Old Masters. He studied at the Art Students League of New York under the direction of the late Frank Vincent Dumond and is a sought-after instructor there today. Mason resides in Manhattan's Little Italy neighborhood where he teaches intimate sessions in old painting techniques in his home studio. He spends summers in a farmhouse near Stowe, Va., where he teaches a landscape painting class en plein-air each year. His works can be found in many museums as well as the Church of San Giovanni di Malta in Venice (canvases of the



life of St. Anthony of Padua) and St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in New York City (Resurrection).

**Jack Tomayko, Ph.D.**, a member of the Point Park University Board

of Trustees and Conservatory of Performing Arts Advisory Board member, has played an integral role in the development of the Lawrence Hall Gallery. An avid art collector, Tomayko has a long-standing relationship with Mason.

The gallery will be open Monday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The paintings are available for purchase by calling 412-412-481-1566. For more information about the gallery, please call 412-392-8008.

Read **The Point** online. [pointpark.edu/thepoint](http://pointpark.edu/thepoint)



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You Know You Want More Point Park.





# girl talk

An after-school mentoring program pairs college women with young girls. It's a higher form of girl talk, and the sessions can spur life-changing results.

By Elizabeth May  
Photography by Isaac Taube  
(COM '09)

It's 4 o'clock on Thursday at Stevens Elementary in Pittsburgh's West End neighborhood. A group of nine girls—fourth- and fifth-graders—sit cross-legged in a circle in the school cafeteria. They're ready to get started. The college students in charge start handing out applesauce containers, handfuls of animal crackers and cups of juice.

It's time for a snack and "roses and thorns," the first part of the weekly hour-and-a-half mentoring session run by five Point Park University students. The University women encourage the girls as they share their highs and lows of the past week. A trip to the mall or the movies is a "rose" for many girls. On the other hand, a bad day at school or some much-dreaded standardized testing is a "thorn." The week that grades came back, many of the girls were proud to announce a new rose—getting on the honor roll.



Top row, from left: Marissa Deasy, sophomore sports, art and entertainment management major; Ally Perry, junior psychology major; Quintina Brown, fifth-grade student; Julia Cowher, junior journalism major; Angel Wallace, sophomore cinema and digital arts major. Bottom row, from left: Fifth grade students Zharia Mourning, Dimera Little, Ah'deja Dennison and Diamond Blackman at the SWSG Jump into Spring event on April 15.

The girls crunch on crackers and sip juice; they smile, talk and laugh. They read a bio of a successful woman and positive role model each week—today, it's R&B superstar vocalist Alicia Keys. The girls can relate. Many aspire to be singers or artists themselves. The Point Park women use interesting facts in the bio as a springboard to more questions. Alicia Keys isn't the singer's real name. So, what is a stage name? What would your stage name be, if you had one? What's a manager? What does a manager do?

The girls are animated and anxious to participate. They relish the opportunity to get encouragement and advice from someone older than them, yet still young enough to relate to the issues they face.

That's just what the founder of Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG) had in mind. SWSG was founded in 2000 by a freshman at Harvard University, who wanted to make a difference in the lives of elementary school students in the Greater Boston area. Today, this innovative after-school mentoring program serves 49 schools and community centers throughout Boston, Pittsburgh and Miami. Eleven different colleges and universities provide 174 student mentors for the program, who meet weekly with

more than 550 young girls.

This year marks the first time Point Park University students have participated. Five women signed on for the program in January 2009: chapter director Julia Cowher, a sophomore journalism major; Marissa Deasy, a freshman sport, art and entertainment major; Ally Perry, a junior psychology major; Jamisa Spalding, a junior theater major; and Angel Wallace, a freshman cinema and digital arts major.

"I think it's going really well so far," says Cowher, who looks forward to her Thursday afternoons with the girls from Stevens Elementary. "We're all new to mentoring, so this is a learning experience for us, but the girls have responded really positively. I just wish we had more time to spend with them per week."

Wallace agrees. "All of us love spending time with the girls; they are so full of energy, and each of us always says SWSG is the highlight of our week, because it honestly is. We learn just as much from the girls as they do from us."

On Thursday, March 19, a bright day just on the cusp of spring, the group at Stevens readies for the next part of their afternoon. Wallace, Cowher and the other mentors kick off some activities that center around

goal-setting. They help the girls complete a worksheet. What are your long- and short-term goals? What are the good things about achieving this goal? How would you work toward the goal? What are some things that can prevent you from achieving your goals?

The girls take the activities to heart. They know that planning for their future can start now. They've also seen the positive power of SWSG at work in their lives. The week after they had a session on stress management, several girls shared how they used a technique like listening to music or writing when they were upset, instead of lashing out.

That kind of feedback is immensely satisfying to everyone involved. "The mentors are given the opportunity to empower young girls," Cowher says. "And the mentors are empowered through being in a leadership role in the community and on campus... It's really rewarding in all respects."

Wallace, too, strongly believes in the impact of mentoring. "To have someone slightly older remind you that you are talented, special, intelligent, gifted—and that you have all the potential in the world—is something that can change a child's life."



# TO RETENTION



Andrew Conte, adjunct faculty member in the School of Communication, spends one-on-one time with students enrolled in the Point Park News Service course. Photo by Tom Bell



From left: Emily Cain, Caitlin Brown, Danielle Gruzosky, John Mayo, Dan Matlack, Ellen Lohr and Amy Schlierf stand in front of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland Ohio, one of several Mystery Bus Trips that are part of the Sophomore Experience. Photo by junior photojournalism major Gabrielle Mazza

Anyone who has been to college knows there is a lot more to the student experience than just what happens in the confines of the classroom. Both academic and non-academic activities work together to influence how much a student enjoys and benefits from their years at college. Success in these two areas also directly correlates with high student retention rates.

Point Park University understands this well and has established programs to immerse students in everything the college offers with the goal of keeping students on campus until they obtain their degree.

"It is important for us to continually look at how well we treat our students and, more importantly, how connected our students are to our services," explains Provost Charles Perkins, Ph.D. "We want to embrace our students so they have the best experience possible at Point Park."

The University is making this connection with students through several formalized programs:

- **Student Success Centers:** The Office of Retention is designed to identify and communicate with students who are at-risk for dropping out due to academic, social or personal problems. Student Success Centers have been established in each of the schools to advise students on scheduling, tutoring, financial aid, social resources and alternatives to dropping out. Efforts have been placed on educating the staff and professors on how different departments can work together to proactively provide viable solutions on an individual basis for students.
- **Living and Learning Communities:** In an effort to help freshmen feel comfortable on campus and build positive communities in which they live and play, students are assigned to Living and Learning Communities (LLCs) based on their personal interests. The communities are the basis for the housing assignment of the student, who lives on the same dorm floor with others who have common interests, such as arts, sports, movies, outdoor activities or global perspectives.

The LLCs offer outings and recreational activities for the students to do together, like attend a play or work on a service project. An assigned community coordinator helps students plan activities and serves as a liaison with the school. The coordinator, who is also a personal resource for the students, is instrumental in identifying those who may need extra help from the Student Success Centers.

- **Sophomore Experience:** The LLCs have been so well received that Sophomore Experience Communities are being formed. These communities will allow students in campus housing to choose their own themes, then provide resources and activities that sophomores can do together. Students in these communities will also benefit from having an assigned coordinator who can help develop activities and serve as a link to the University staff and services.

"We've always told parents that we care about the students and are passionate about their academic success," notes Perkins. "Now we are starting conversations and making a connection with our students to ensure they have the best possible experience while at Point Park."



## Gov. Ed Rendell Addresses Point Park's

# 49<sup>th</sup>

## Commencement

Inspires graduates,  
friends and families with  
an uplifting message

By Kate Beard Miller

Point Park's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement on May 2 at the Mellon Arena delivered the usual sentiment for graduates and their families. It was a fitting culmination for years of hard work by students, faculty and the University administration. This year, there was something special about the fanfare amongst the crowd. It could have been the excitement for Governor Ed Rendell's commencement speech. Perhaps it was the swelling pride for all the graduates whose alma mater is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and increasingly signifying success through progress of the Academic Village at Point Park University. Some may say it was the chill of the arena in effort to maintain the ice rink below as the Pittsburgh Penguins continued to compete in the National Hockey League playoffs on their way to bringing home the Stanley Cup.

Whatever the reason, it was a jubilant send-off and Rendell's speech was genuine and inspiring. He started by offering five tips he's learned through his own experience and summarized them as: seize the moment, you decide, go for it, hang in there and how to feel really good.

Rendell peppered his speech with quotations by humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, motivational speaker Les Brown, basketball player John Wood and his own father. However, the most meaningful parts of his speech were his own offerings of wisdom. He shared the experience of losing his father at the age of 14 and how he was grateful for the years they had together. He spoke about the long road to becoming governor and how he was told

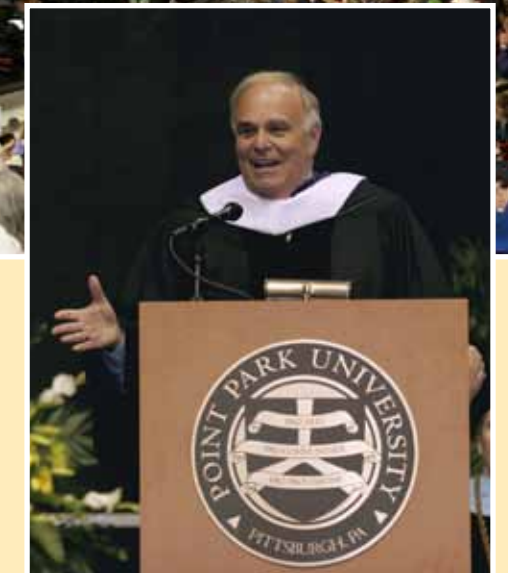


Photo by Tom Bell

that as a Philadelphian he would never be elected. But he pressed forward and found hope in the story of John Street, who served as the 97<sup>th</sup> mayor of Philadelphia immediately following Rendell's term as mayor. Rendell said that Street was told he'd never be able to go to college, but Street exceeded expectations by earning a bachelor's degree and continuing on to obtain a law degree and later becoming mayor.

Rendell said he was inspired by the words of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader reflecting on his progress and renewed self-esteem because of an after-school tutoring program and the teacher who encouraged him. Rendell used that story to illustrate his call to service and finding happiness in life.

Over 600 graduates walked in the ceremony, presided over by University President Paul Hennigan, Ph.D., with John Kudlac, Ph.D., as grand marshal. Rendell was with an honorary degree by Nancy Washington, Ph.D., chair of the board of trustees, and conferred by Hennigan. In total, 720 Point Park students graduated with bachelor's degrees and 209 students graduated with master's degrees in the 2008 – 2009 academic year.



# Biloxi or Bust

Point Park Students, Staff and Faculty Spent Spring Break Building a Home for Hurricane Katrina Survivors

By Alon Melamed



Photography by Adam Flanagan (A&S '09)



Morgan Patkos and Tiffany Lehman mark a piece of wood with a chalk reel.



From left: Tiffany Lehman, Elaine Koontz and Brittany Johndrow.



Front row, from left: Kelly Grigg, Mack Frantz, Ashley Dalton, Habitat Volunteer Spike; second row: Riva Strauss, PK Weston, Terry Dougan; third row: Elaine Koontz, Julia Cowher, Brittany Johndrow, Ashley Murray, Ashley Laverty; fourth row: Tiffany Lehman, Habitat Project Leader Miles, Morgan Patkos, Adam Flanagan.



A new home constructed by Habitat for Humanity and a home destroyed by the hurricane in the ninth ward of New Orleans, La.

Each spring millions of students splurge on a spring break trip as a timeout from the rigors of college life.

For a group of Point Park students, spring break 2009 meant much more than that.

“When I was a little girl a tornado ripped through my grandparents’ town. I went to visit them after the tornado and witnessed a little girl about my age holding her teddy bear in the middle of her wrecked home. Ever since that scene, I felt I had to give back to that little girl. The Biloxi trip helped me accomplish giving back.”

Elaine Koontz, a freshman cinema and digital arts major, was one of a dozen Point Park students who traveled to Biloxi, Miss., for an alternative spring break.

The group, under the direction of Habitat for Humanity, helped to build a new home for Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Ashley Dalton, director of Campus Life, served alongside P. K. Weston, Ph.D., director of the Honors Program, as advisors on the trip. Dalton was inspired to organize the trip during an Association of College Union International (ACUI) conference held in New Orleans last year.

“The first day of the conference we all went with Habitat and built a house. It was such a great experience. I thought ‘students should do this,’ to give them a chance to do something really great with their time,” Dalton said.

Mack Frantz, a junior biology major, said many students were personally affected by this trip. Frantz never realized how big the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina really was until he was there in person.

“We arrived to a flat foundation and building materials that had to be deconstructed from sitting out more than a year. So in reality, we spent half a week deconstructing in order to build the house,” he said. “We left with the basic framework and sheeting up, so it went from nothing to looking like a house.”

Brittany Johndrow, a freshman print journalism major, learned a lot about selflessness and personal sacrifice.

“Knowing that someone was waiting to live in this house, to return to a normal life, really made me consider how lucky I am to be where I am now,” said Johndrow.

For most of the students, the alternative spring break was their first opportunity to travel to the South. The University funded the trip in part and students contributed with fund raising.

The group stayed at Camp Victor Ministries. Once an old sewing factory, the hostel was one of many relief centers that were active during the days of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The conditions at the hostel could be described as challenging with a total of 50 beds in both the men’s and women’s rooms. Plus the toll of working seven- or eight-hour days further exhausted the group.

However, morale remained high despite the challenging conditions and 6 a.m. wake-up calls.

Terry Dougan, junior accounting major and Weston’s husband, complemented the Point Park group with considerable construction expertise. Having previous experience in the construction field, Dougan assisted with more heavy-duty work involved in building a house.

Habitat houses that are purchased locally have a zero mortgage rate. The pay rate for the family who lives in the house actually serves as a base contribution for other houses that would be built in the future.

“What we did is help the next house and the next one structure in such a way it keeps giving forever in perpetuity,” said Weston.

Before leaving Camp Victor grounds, each group leaves a mural and a T-shirt representing where they are from. The wall of murals represented groups who traveled from across the nation to help rebuild the devastated communities.

Weston concluded the students gained more than just a trip; they gained a life-changing experience.

“Many students realize that a self-serving life, while fun in the short term, leaves them feeling empty. This trip will enable students to learn deeply about others (and themselves) and allow them to spend their time in a meaningful way.”



Kiesha Lalama-White (COPA 1995) is fast-becoming a familiar name in the dance world. She is living her dream and all the while balancing the needs of her family. Rather early in her career as a choreographer and dance educator, she has been recognized in Dance Magazine's "25 to watch in 2009," commissioned to choreograph works for the Houston Met and Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, and even choreographed a dance scene in Paramount's remake of *Sorority Row* which is due in theaters this October. Lalama-White has accomplished all of this from her Pittsburgh roots with family as her number one priority.

"It's taken me years to realize that I'm only truly going to be happy as a mother and as a wife if I'm happy in my life and my life is choreography and dance. So that's how I find the balance," said Lalama-White, who is also working on a master's degree in interdisciplinary arts at Goddard College.

At seven years old, Lalama-White had a good sense for putting movement to music. She simply could not accept a section of



Photos by Tom Bell

mismatched movements in a gymnastics floor routine and promptly let her instructor know that the choreography didn't feel right. Perhaps this was the first moment that defined her as an artist.

Though Lalama-White didn't begin studying dance until the age of 16, her

athleticism as a gymnast was a natural advantage considering most dance students at that age can have as many as 10 years in training. Lalama-White's ability caught the attention of her instructors and it wasn't long before she was competing in dance competitions across the nation.

She was awarded a scholarship to attend Slippery Rock University where she majored in dance and also participated on the track team. After a halting injury to her knee as a result of throwing discus, Lalama-White returned home to recuperate from surgery. She took some time off from her education to continue in competitions and met dance coach Kim Leheny (COPA 1990) who encouraged her to continue her studies at Point Park University. Lalama-White enrolled shortly thereafter and knew she had found her home within the first week of classes.

After graduation, Lalama-White opened Shout School of Performing Arts in Monaca, Pa and managed a successful business there for 10 years. When an opportunity became available to return to Point Park as a faculty member in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, Lalama-White was faced with the difficult choice of closing her flourishing studio for the opportunity to work with dance students, who much like herself, had aspirations for a career in dance.

Lalama-White attributes many of her successes and opportunities in dance to her education and contacts at Point Park. Marlana Walsh (COPA '01), managing director for the Houston Met, commissioned Lalama-White to choreograph *Jolt* in 2005. Lalama-White will be returning to choreograph a new work for the Houston Met this year. Katie Shenot (COPA '03), director of casting at Nancy Mosser Casting, contacted Lalama-White about the choreography opportunity with *Sorority Row*.

"It was kind of surreal, because I've always wanted to do that," Lalama-White said. As choreographer for the film, Lalama-White was able to select six Point Park dance majors to be extras in the dance scene.

Another Point Park connection for Lalama-White is her husband, Roy White (BUS 1993), whom she met as a student at the University. They have two sons Jake, age 10, and Jax, age 8, and Lalama-White often includes her family in the creative process.

"They know that my energy is different when I'm creating and they can feel that energy. They're a huge part of it," said

Lalama-White. She includes a theme step from her children in every piece she choreographs and asks for their input in music selection.

## A Faculty Member and Alumna Takes Her Dance Career to New Heights

Lalama-White is modest about her success, expressing gratitude while avoiding any air of superiority. It almost seems as if she chooses to not dwell on this success and instead continues to be inspired to create and motivate others to achieve their goals.

"What's rewarding for me is to see the students go on to get professional jobs and to find their own happiness. My reward is having a full-time job at this University. I love it. I think I'm bleeding green and gold at this point. There is no other reward quite like that."

She recently choreographed a full-length show, *The Beach*, to be performed at the Pittsburgh Playhouse in December. The show follows a man and woman as they journey through life, celebrating the love and support of family. The show is a collaboration with cousins David Lalama, a New York City-based composer, and Ralph Lalama, a Grammy Award-winning saxophonist.

Lalama-White's latest accomplishment is a work titled *Rise*, which she performed with fellow alums and one student for a gala at the Grier School, in Trenton, Pa. The performance was organized by Jocelyn Labriola Hrzic (COPA 1994), artistic director for the Grier Summer Program.

"It's all about how it's time to move on, to stand up. A lot of dancers are stuck right now, trying to find jobs and I want them to know that they will. Never give up. Rise up to the occasion. Stand up for yourself and move on."

# Rising to the Occasion

By  
Kate Beard Miller





By Kate Beard Miller

# A Silver Lining in the Time of Economic Stimulus



As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed earlier this year, Point Park engineering graduates are benefiting from a surge of funding for ready-to-go projects in the infrastructure and energy sectors. In contrast to rising unemployment, there is great demand for engineers across all disciplines and Point Park's Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology continues to produce a skilled engineering workforce to meet the demands of the future.

After all, engineers help to keep our nation functioning in many unseen ways. Here are just a few stories of Point Park alumni and students who have contributed to the advancement of their professions, while making our world a better place.

**Gary DeJidas (A&S 1972)**, president and CEO of GAI Consultants Inc., began working for GAI as a construction inspector 37 years ago. About 10 years into his career, DeJidas was selected to open an office in Orlando, Fla. He grew a successful business there with a team of talented engineers and staff numbering more than 100.

Today, GAI is anticipating the 2010 completion of a seven-story office building that will serve as the company's headquarters in Orlando. The company also has offices in Charleston, W.Va., Cincinnati, Ohio, Florence, Ky., Fort Wayne, Ind., Jacksonville, Fla., Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pa., and provides engineer consulting in a variety of disciplines. DeJidas said he anticipates a lot of opportunity for his company with stimulus funding in infrastructure ranging from work on roads, bridges and railways to water treatment and improving the electric grid.

"Another big area for us is energy. We're working on renewable energy and wind farms and we're partnering with Westinghouse on some new nuclear plants," DeJidas said.

DeJidas was honored as a distinguished alumnus of Point Park in 2006 and is a new member of the Board of Trustees. He recently created an scholarship/internship opportunity

for Point Park students at GAI with the possibility of full-time employment at the completion of the internship.

**Mary Grace Cesarespada (A&S '07)**, power systems engineer at Eaton, conducts circuit, coordination and arc flash studies of high voltage power systems to improve safety precautions in public buildings. Cesarespada is currently conducting numerous arc flash studies as part of compliance standards in local hospitals. The studies evaluate worst-case scenarios of arc flash or fire within a panel board. She then provides hospitals with safety precautions based on the study.

"It's gratifying knowing you're able to help and protect people. I like to know that I am helping to save someone's life."

Eaton is currently in the developmental stages of research for the distribution and safety of alternative power such as solar and wind technologies. For example, Cesarespada could one day conduct arc flash studies on windmills, in which maintenance is conducted on a platform at least 200 feet above ground and safety is critical.

**John Nemmer (A&S '04)**, senior civil engineer supervisor at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), is currently project manager for the

reconstruction of State Route 65 through Sewickley, Pa., and all of the ramp structures in that area. His responsibilities include ensuring that contractors are safely fulfilling their contractual obligations and compliance with the plans, specifications and contract provisions such as traffic control.

"Point Park gave me a practical and analytical approach to engineering," said Nemmer. "Point Park prepared me to become a hands-on, evolved type of engineer, which is great for working out in the field on construction projects."

Nemmer has been with PennDOT for six years and recently served as project manager for the \$60 million reconstruction of a seven mile stretch on Interstate 79 between the Neville Island Bridge and the Interstate 279/79 interchange.

Nemmer said his district had many projects that met the criteria for stimulus funding.

"The bottom line is that we can always use funding, especially for our bridge program and the need for bridge rehabilitation."

**Bradley Kughn**, senior civil engineering major, is a full-time, non-traditional student. He started his engineering degree through a 3/2 program at

Waynesburg University. The three-year program is designed for students to transfer and complete their degree with an additional two years at another university. While at Waynesburg, Kughn's previous work experience with the university's help desk afforded him a co-op/internship in information technology with US Steel. After transferring to the University of Pittsburgh to complete his degree, Kughn found it difficult to maintain the position with US Steel and a full class schedule. He was attracted to Point Park for its evening and weekend classes and small class size.

"The best thing about Point Park is that every class I needed, I could take in the evening or on weekends so that I could continue to work 40 hours a week," said Kughn. "I was trying to go through school without a lot of debt, trying to work and pay the tuition at the same time."

In May, Kughn's position at US Steel was terminated in a round of layoffs. However, in the same month he was notified about his selection as recipient of the GAI scholarship and internship opportunity.

"The scholarship is really exciting. It takes a lot of the weight off of my shoulders and will definitely help pay for the last remaining classes. It's just exciting in general to get into GAI."

**John Larson (A&S '08)**, quality engineer at Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, made some contacts with his company while a full-time student at Point Park and eventually landed an internship that turned into a full-time job.

"There is a lot of demand for electrical equipment because the grid is becoming older. By improving parts of the electric grid, when one line goes down, you can pull power from another and there could be a decrease in the number of blackouts and brownouts, loss of power or partial loss of power."

**Ron Young (A&S '08)**, research assistant at NanoDynamics Life Science, contributes to the research of anti-fungus and water purification products through biological testing. Young is currently working on obtaining Environmental Protection Agency registration of NanoCide, an anti-fungal material for building products.

"Point Park gave me greater knowledge in other types of research," said Young. "The field of biotechnology is growing very rapidly, especially in the Pittsburgh area. It's a great field because there is always a new virus that needs to be researched."

**Amanda Bright**, engineering technician at Wheeling Corrugating Company, travels from Wheeling to Downtown Pittsburgh two times during the workweek and commutes from her home in Imperial, Pa., on Saturdays for a full load of coursework in the Civil Engineering Program. Her company will promote her to engineer upon completion of her degree. Her company supplies materials such as galvanized and aluminized steel in sheet and coil form and bridge forms to contractors for highway and bridge construction.

"Now I've transferred into the engineering department where I am getting more in-depth with the actual profile and calculations that are used to find sectional properties and load carrying capacities."

**William Stehle** is a full-time, non-traditional student in the Mechanical Engineering Program and is thankful his previous company encouraged him to complete his bachelor's degree. He worked in telecommunications at Ericsson and had been in the same position over the course of eleven years through tumultuous transitions from ForeSystems, to Marconi, to Ericsson. Ericsson closed their Warrendale branch in June and Stehle plans to graduate in the spring of 2010.

"I tell you what, if I didn't go back to school, it would be tough to look for a job right now. I'm glad I went back."

Photography by Jim Judkis



*Students and Graduates of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology Contribute to a Better and Brighter Tomorrow*





Photo by Karen Meyers

# FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE WORKPLACE

with Associate Dean Mary Smith Peters

By Kate Beard Miller

**Q. Point:** What is your first piece of advice to those who have recently lost their jobs and are looking for employment?

**A. Peters:** The first thing to realize is that your unemployment is probably not about you. It probably has more to do with the economy, so you should not approach your job search in a negative way. You should think positively about what you have to offer and what you can do and then go out there thinking that there's some place that you should be. If you think that, then when you approach an employer, it's much more positive. You can be the solution to their problem. Knowing your skills and understanding how they're marketable is what's most important.

**Q. Point:** You recently led a community workshop titled Bridging the Gap as outreach for those who are unemployed due to economic downfall, what were some of the main topics of that series?

**A. Peters:** I think that when you lose your job, particularly when it happens so quickly, there is a certain panic. The idea is to go from panic to a plan. Our workshop helped participants to understand their skills, interests and values, so that as they start the job search, they're able to package themselves differently. You've got to have a plan and the better the plan, the more confident the search. The series had five two-hour workshop sessions where we took people from telling their story, to outlining their skills and interests and forming a plan. We brought in a panel of experts to talk about unemployment benefits, what to do with your 401K, how to handle debt and looked at educational backgrounds. We brought in people from banking and unemployment and a counselor

to help with how people feel as a result of being unemployed. We also conducted diagnostic testing to identify skills, abilities and interests, analyzed transcripts, and talked about programs here at Point Park. Participants left these sessions with an updated resume and a plan for how they're going to market themselves. Part of our strategic plan is to be a good neighbor, and we envisioned this program as something that we could do as good neighbors. The added bonus is, if participants are interested in higher education, then Point Park's the place to be.

**Q. Point:** Do you recommend any online resources for job seekers?

**A. Peters:** We can all find Web sites, but the idea is what do you do with that information once you get it? If you're going to get a job, you have to get up and go and get it. You can look at the Web sites and send your resume, but given this market, you've got to find where the work is and go out and look for it. The job search needs to be one-on-one. The longer you stay inside researching and the less time you go out looking for it, the longer it will take.

**Q. Point:** How do you encourage those who have been unemployed for more than six months?

**A. Peters:** This is the first time I've seen that even when somebody is doing all the right things, it may take longer to find a job than they thought. We're having a true shift in the way we do business in this country. Some things will always be true: you always have to go face-to-face, you always have to be as well prepared as you can and you always have to be flexible. But when you have companies

closing down, you've got to understand how what you need and what you want fits in the big picture. The idea is to not get discouraged. Keep your energy up and don't blame yourself.

**Q. Point:** What inspired you to work with non-traditional students?

**A. Peters:** The idea of reinventing yourself. I love that, because I did it and it was so much fun. One of the reasons I encourage people to think about what interests them and what they want to do is that it might be that the last job you had is not the job you need to be looking for again. And that's hard to think about when you have to find a job. If you were not in the right job in the first place, since you're forced to do it anyhow, why not take a moment and revisit those things that interest you and the things you know how to do and where work is happening? Years ago, I was working for a company that was going away: Digital Equipment Corporation. I saw an opportunity to reassess my educational background, a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in counseling, and to embrace the change that was coming. I asked myself what would I like to do. I had interns from time to time, and had enjoyed coaching them. That's what inspired me to start working in student affairs, and later in career counseling, judicial affairs and my current role in advising non-traditional students. I've been my own best test case of the theories I advocate to students!

Mary Smith Peters is associate dean of students for Non-Traditional Programs. She can be reached at [mstpeters@pointpark.edu](mailto:mstpeters@pointpark.edu).

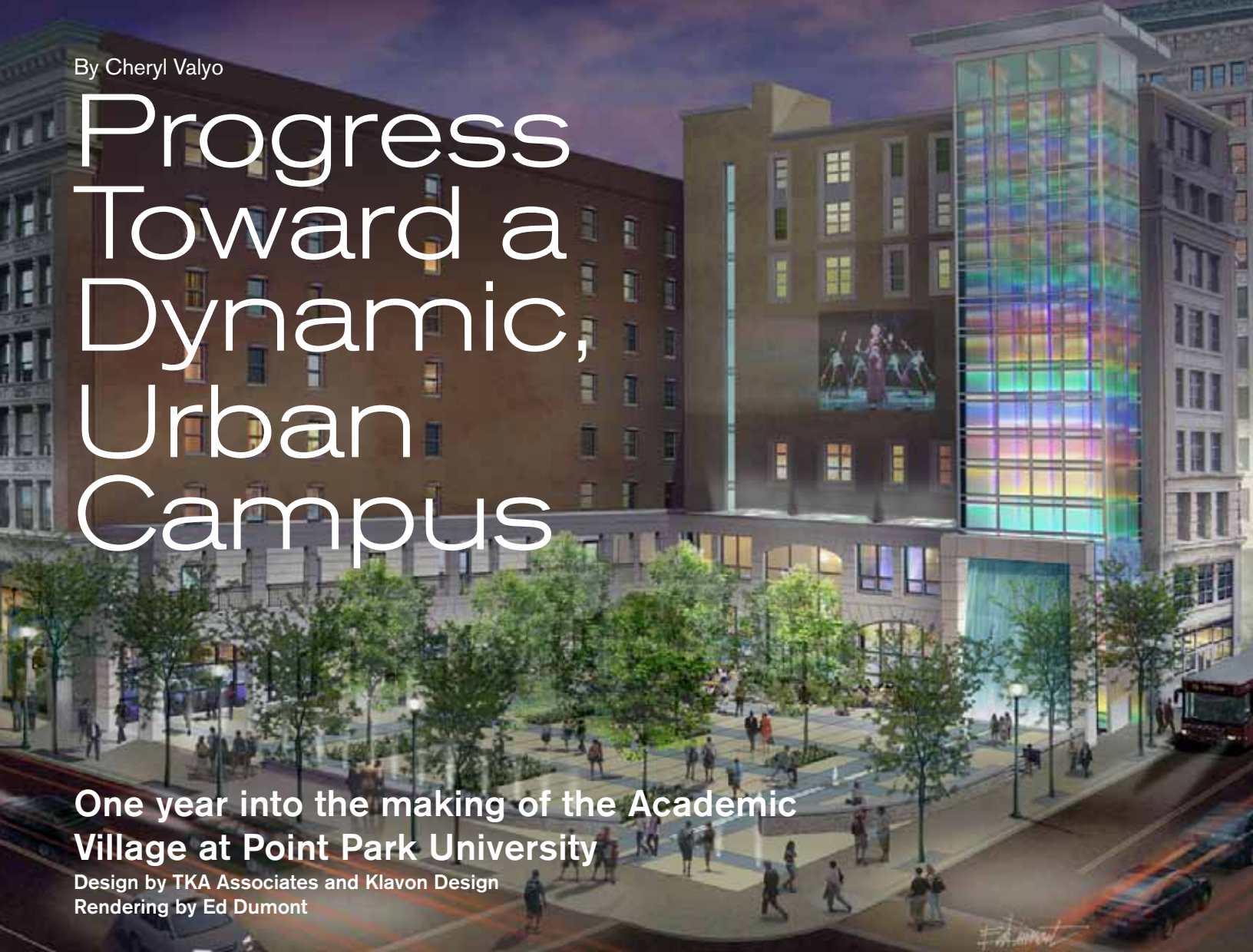


By Cheryl Valyo

# Progress Toward a Dynamic, Urban Campus

## One year into the making of the Academic Village at Point Park University

Design by TKA Associates and Klavon Design  
Rendering by Ed Dumont



**A** year after unveiling the Academic Village at Point Park University, the \$244 million campus and public enhancement space plan that is already well on the way toward transforming the University and Downtown Pittsburgh, Point Park has made significant strides toward making the initiative a reality.

At a news conference and campus luncheon for business, government and community leaders on April 23, the University announced the results of a study conducted by the Pennsylvania Economy League on the Economic Impact of the Academic Village and provided an update on design and construction.

According to the report, the Academic Village will add nearly \$280 million in total value to the economy. Commissioned by the University last year, the study measured

direct, indirect and induced economic output, as well as jobs and compensation created by the initiative. The Academic Village will generate 3,700 full- and part-time jobs through direct spending, and indirect and induced ripple effects in the local economy.

The University also announced that it has secured commitments of support from key local legislators who recognize the importance of the Academic Village Initiative and the impact it will have on Downtown Pittsburgh. The legislators include: Sen. Wayne Fontana, Sen. Jay Costa, Rep. Jake Wheatley, Rep. Paul Costa, and Rep. Dan Frankel.

“The past year has been one of significant progress on the Academic Village,” said Point Park President Paul Hennigan. “We have made \$30 million in investments to campus facilities, received widespread support from

the community, and are developing plans to break ground on such key elements as the urban park this year.”

The University also announced that Tasso Katselas Associates (TKA) Inc. and Klavon Design, both Pittsburgh-based architectural firms, will develop plans for the urban park at the corner of Wood Street and the Blvd. of the Allies. Preliminary concepts include a variety of trees, a water feature and complementary retail elements. The University expects to break ground on the park in fall 2009.

Governor Ed Rendell and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) announced that the University has been awarded a \$3.95 million grant from its Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative for upgrades and enhancements to the Wood Street Corridor. The grant is the

largest of 50 awarded throughout the state and it will fund the milling and resurfacing of Wood Street; installation of accessible sidewalks and curbs; the addition of distinctive pedestrian-scaled street lighting; and new and efficient signaling systems at the intersections with the Boulevard of the Allies and Third Avenue.

The University engaged GAI Consultants Inc., a Pittsburgh-based engineering firm, to design the streetscape improvements that will extend from Fort Pitt Boulevard to Third Avenue. The design and survey phases have been completed and construction is expected to be initiated later this year.

GAI is working with TKA and Klavon to ensure that the design concepts for the Wood Street Corridor and the park complement each other.

While the initial focus of the Wood Street Corridor is the area between Ft. Pitt Blvd. and Third Ave., the University intends to eventually extend the streetscape design to Forbes

Avenue and various cross streets, as funding permits.

One of the most anticipated future elements of the Academic Village is a new eight-story student center in the former YMCA building

on the Blvd. of the Allies. The first stage of the design process, a request for qualifications from prospective architectural teams, has been completed. The University has solicited proposals from several design teams who accompanied the architects in their review of the existing building.

The University continues to expand the campus with the purchase of 101 Wood Street. The building is being evaluated for use, such as a welcome center that will include the Office of Admissions, and will finalize plans as the existing tenant transitions out over the next two years.

For more information about The Academic Village, and to read the report on the Economic Impact of the Academic Village by the Pennsylvania Economy League, go to [www.pointpark.edu/academicvillage](http://www.pointpark.edu/academicvillage).

Photo by Karen Meyers



### University Architect Appointed to Oversee Initiative, Lead Design Teams

A \$2 million grant from The Heinz Endowments made it possible to begin a comprehensive design process for construction of the Academic Village and supported the appointment of the University's first-ever architect/planner. Last spring, architect Elmer Burger joined the University to oversee the initiative in its entirety and help construct an environmental, sustainable overlay for the project.

A Pittsburgh native, Burger has more than 30 years of experience in architecture, design, project management and field supervision. His experience encompasses education, urban design, office buildings, hotels, sports facilities and public housing. Burger has worked in such cities as Boston and Washington, D.C., but has spent much of his career in his hometown, where his projects have included Pittsburgh's award-winning PNC Firstside Center.

The Academic Village project “couldn't offer a more challenging and exciting opportunity for an architect,” said Burger. “The University's vision and integration with Downtown Pittsburgh creates some extraordinary design challenges, which I greatly enjoy.” He said he also appreciates collaborating with a variety of architects and engineers and other design team members, and looks forward to engaging the involvement of stakeholders such as students, faculty and the University's neighbors.

## On the Move

As the Academic Village continues to outwardly transform Point Park's Downtown neighborhood, internal changes are also being implemented to meet the needs of the University's schools, departments and administrative offices.

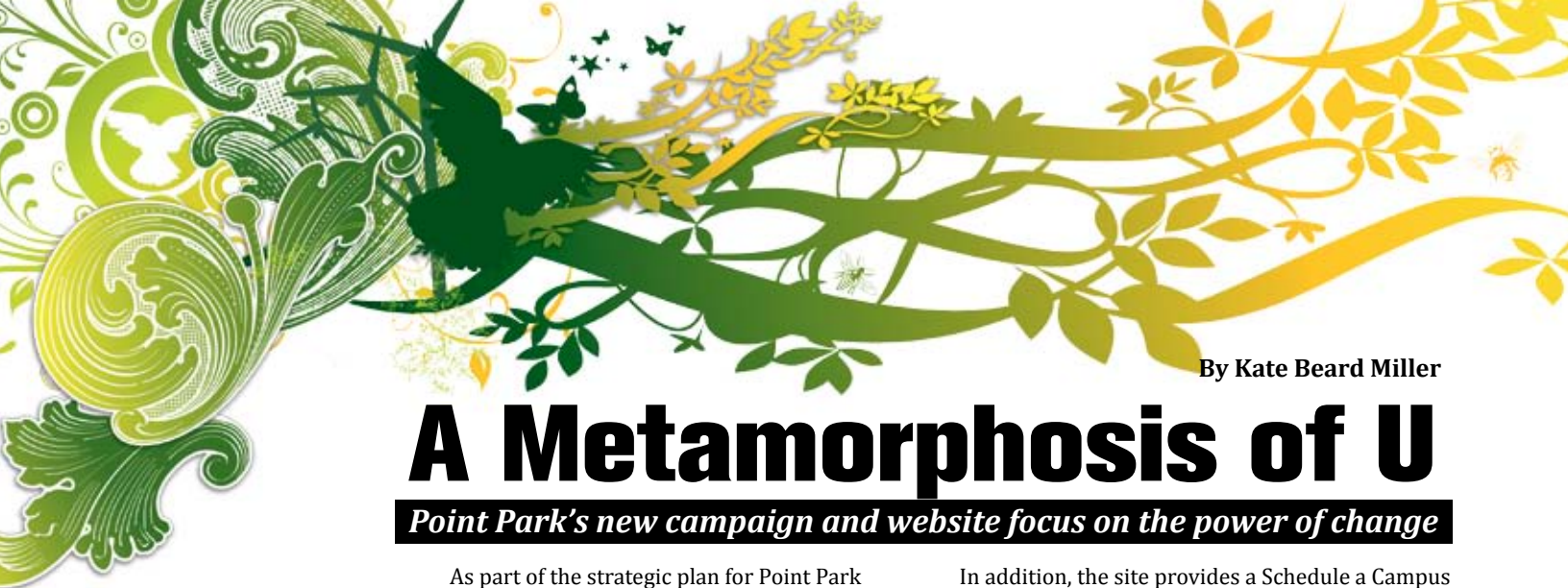
WTW Architects of Pittsburgh and Comprehensive Facility Planners, Inc. (CFP) of Columbus, Ohio are working behind-the-scenes to help the University develop its master space plan, including recommendations for locating academic and administrative spaces and other key facilities.

Last May the School of Business moved from Thayer Hall into its new home on floors

11, 12 and 13 in the West Penn building at Wood Street and Ft. Pitt Blvd. After a \$5 million renovation led by TKA Architects and Massaro Corp., the space encompasses classrooms, offices, and conference rooms.

Thayer Hall's ninth and tenth floors are now home to classrooms and offices in the new School of Communication. In addition, the Department of Criminal Justice has moved to the fifth floor of Academic Hall, the Registrar's Office moved to the ninth floor of Thayer Hall, the PCHE Offices have moved to the second floor of Thayer Hall and the International Offices have moved to Frontier Hall.





By Kate Beard Miller

# A Metamorphosis of U

**Point Park's new campaign and website focus on the power of change**

As part of the strategic plan for Point Park University, the Department of Marketing and Communications has consulted with Smith Brothers Associates for a redesign of the Web site and comprehensive marketing communications plan with a focus on enrollment. Early this year, research and discovery sessions were conducted for each school and department within the University and a focus group of prospective students was included in the market research. The outcome of this effort is the definition of Point Park as a place where students can come to create real change. With the tagline "a metamorphosis of me," the University marketing communicates to potential students who are career-driven and a natural fit for Point Park.

The new Web site design is streamlined for easy navigation with features such as a financial aid calculator to aid prospective students and their families in estimating tuition. This unique feature was developed expressly for Point Park.

In addition, the site provides a Schedule a Campus Visit feature in which prospective students can select a time and date and their information is automatically forwarded to the Office of Admissions for follow-up.

Perhaps the most distinct transformation of the Web site is the use of social media as a way for prospective students to learn about the University through interaction with current students, faculty and staff via online communities such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, blogs and more. This transparent approach demonstrates confidence in the University and its mission and provides prospective students with an inside look into Point Park's vibrant community.

The new Web site and marketing campaign, launched in August, complement the Academic Village at Point Park University and support the vision to become one of the most dynamic private, urban universities in America.

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*Since its inception, Starmakers has raised more than \$2 million through the support of our benefactors.*

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ESPECIALLY FOR ALUMNI



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Our 49th Commencement at the Mellon Arena was a stunning testament to the fine programs and graduates produced by Point Park. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2010, I encourage alumni to reconnect with our University community. By submitting a Class Note, you can share your successes with fellow alumni and in turn, reflect pride on our institution. This is a wonderful opportunity to inspire future graduates who will follow in our footsteps.

Class Notes can be submitted in two ways: send your news to Point Park University, Office of Alumni Relations, 201 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pa 15222-1984, or email [alumni@pointpark.edu](mailto:alumni@pointpark.edu). We have lots to celebrate in the coming year and I hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

John Taormina (A&S '00, MBA '01)

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors



## WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

(YOUR CLASSMATES WANT TO KNOW.)

The **Class Notes** section in The Point is expanding, and we want to include information about you.

Share your news about:

- Marriage
- New job
- Travel with alumni
- Recent campus visit
- Birth or adoption
- Promotion
- In memoriam
- Reunion with classmates



It's easy to send us your news: visit [www.pointpark.edu/classnote](http://www.pointpark.edu/classnote) today!

*P.S. Feel free to share your photos with us, too, by emailing to [thepoint@pointpark.edu](mailto:thepoint@pointpark.edu)*

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Photo by Jim Judkis

## RICHARD GOLDBERG

*Alumni Profile*  
*By Tammi Kaufman*

In his daily duties as Deputy District Attorney of Narcotics for Allegheny County, Richard D. Goldberg (Bus 1971) never has an average day.

At any time during the day or night he could receive a call from a local police officer looking for advice on a developing case, or from any one of the seven attorneys he oversees in the narcotics unit.

“We have approximately 20,000 cases per year and in our unit we handle anywhere from 1,200 to 1,400 felony drug cases, most of which carry mandatory sentences,” said Goldberg.

In addition, at the request of District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr., Goldberg and others in his office work with many community groups and task forces to try to create drug prevention awareness. “We give advice as to what drugs are out there, what to look for in people who may be using drugs and how to identify people who may be selling drugs,” explained Goldberg. “That is as big a part of our office function as the prosecution of cases. Although our primary function is prosecution of cases, we would rather people not use or sell drugs.”

Goldberg has been serving as the deputy district attorney in the Narcotics Unit since

1989 and prior to that he served as deputy district attorney for the Robbery Unit.

He credits much of his success to his start at Point Park University, which he said he chose to attend because of the locality and small class size. He recalled one class, taught by an instructor who also owned a trucking company: “We, as a group, identified and solved problems relating to many aspects of the trucking industry. It was a very interesting course. It was those problem-solving exercises that prompted me to believe that law school was the right direction for me.”

After graduating from Point Park in 1971, he went on to earn his law degree from the University of Akron and soon after began his career as a law clerk for a judge in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Seeking more trial experience, he accepted a position in the District Attorney’s Office and liked it so much he has remained there ever since.

Goldberg has a 28-year-old daughter who also lives in the Pittsburgh area. In his precious spare time he enjoys swimming, playing golf and spending time with his family.



Photo by Adjanys Marrero

## GERMAINE GIBBS

*Alumni Profile*  
*By Tammi Kaufman*

At 33, Germaine Gibbs (COM 1996) is living her dream. Recently appointed as CFO of Animus Solutions, an IT management and consulting service in Tampa, Fla., Gibbs also runs her own highly successful spa and does modeling on the side.

Diverse as her interests may be, they the perfect combination for Gibbs, originally from Curacao, a small Dutch island in the Caribbean.

Gibbs chose to attend Point Park after being awarded a competitive scholarship from Curacao to study in the United States.

She recalls the January day when she first arrived in Pittsburgh. The cold wind blowing through the city buildings was a brisk reminder that she was a long way from home, but Gibbs adapted quickly, soon becoming president of the international club and earning prestigious internship placements.

“Point Park was an incredible foundation for me,” said Gibbs. “I feel that the best decision I made was going to Point Park because the classes were small enough that I got much more out of it than I could have in a room with 300 other students.”

Following graduation she went on to earn an MBA with specialization in financing, marketing and international business from

the University of South Florida. Gibbs was recruited to Eckerd Corporation as a financial analyst and quickly moved through the ranks to become regional manager, where she oversaw some 800 stores in the South Florida region. As part of her duties, Gibbs was responsible for buying skin and nail care products for 2,600 Eckerd stores. During that time she got her skin care license and even developed her own private label skin care line.

When Eckerd was sold in 2004, Gibbs chose to take the severance package she was offered and open her own spa, a lifelong dream of hers. Now five years later, her spa “Awa” is considered one of the top wellness sanctuaries and spas in Tampa.

In February, she accepted an offer to serve as CFO of Animus Corporation and finds the mix of business interests she has very fulfilling. She models on the side and even finds time to volunteer for the Junior League of Tampa, reading to elementary children every other week.

“I really truly enjoy it all,” said Gibbs. “I just make sure my life is balanced.” She credits her husband of three years, Michael Ashy, with helping her to do that.



# Transitions and Transformations

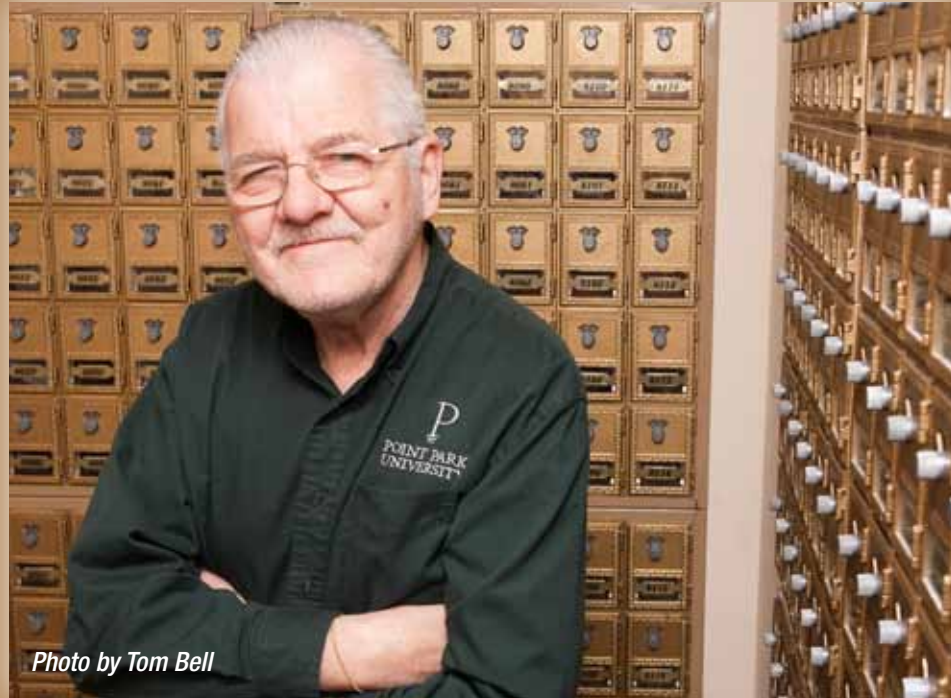


Photo by Tom Bell

## Longest University Employee Retires and Reveals His Story of Point Park's Growth Over the Years

By Kate Beard Miller

When asked about his long career as a receiving operator and elevator operator at Point Park University, John Evans will proudly tell you he has witnessed the University campus grow from a single building to 10—and counting! After a 45-year career with the University, Evans retired in July.

His first indulgence in retirement was to sleep in past his usual weekday wake-up time of 4:30 a.m. From there, he joined an afternoon bowling league and Bible study. Evans said he would have plenty to do in retirement considering his wife, Gwynne, has been lining up activities and projects over the last year.

"I thought I'd work at Point Park for some time, but I didn't expect it to be this long," Evans said during an interview prior to his retirement. Although, he was sad to leave Lawrence Hall behind. While Evans had worked in at least seven different locations during his career at the University, Lawrence Hall is most special to him.

Evans met his wife in 1962 at a vocational school. He knew she was the woman he would one day marry, but needed to find a job so that he could honor his parents' desire for him to fulfill one year of work before exchanging vows. After receiving a

job offer to work in the mailroom in Academic Hall in 1964, Evans proposed and started making wedding plans. He and Gwynne married on August 14, 1965 and honeymooned in what was then the Sherwyn Hotel. Two years later, Point Park purchased the hotel as the second building on campus and Evans moved into the building, which housed the new mailroom.

"Back then, when the college was young, I used to deliver the mail to offices," said Evans. However, it wasn't long before the mailroom staff organized the mail into mailboxes for pick-up as a result of the growing Point Park community.

Evans fondly reminisced about those who encouraged him along the way, including the late Earl Main, who passed away on January 26, 2009. Main had retired from his job as purchasing agent in 1994 with the second longest career of 40 years. Main was hired in 1954 by the Business Training College, the predecessor of Point Park University.

Evans and his wife have one daughter and two grandchildren. They recently vacationed at a dude ranch in the Catskill Mountains of New York, a family favorite where they enjoy riding horses, playing croquet and ballroom dancing.

## Nostalgic Notions

BREAKING GROUND

The recent development of the Academic Village at Point Park University mirrors another era when Point Park was beginning the transition from a junior college to a college in the mid-1960s. The photos below show the construction of a new million-dollar dormitory and student union. Founders Dorothy C. Finkelhor, then-president, L. Herbert Finkelhor, then-chairman of the board, and David L. Lawrence, then-governor can be seen breaking ground on the site. The dormitory, now known as Thayer Hall, originally housed 165 students.

The Finkelhors' foresight for advancing academic achievement and expanding the campus can be seen in a new light through the Academic Village and the vision for the University to become one of the most dynamic private, urban universities in America.





## Some roles never die. They don't even fade away.

James Krut (COM 1968) found his role of a lifetime in 1978 in the cult classic *Dawn of the Dead*. In one of the horror movie's most memorable scenes, Krut is a zombie who walks under whirling helicopter blades and loses part of his head.

The "helicopter zombie" found himself invited to film, horror movie and even comic book conventions as interest in George Romero's movie grew over the years. He traveled to Europe and across the United States to meet fans. Krut still makes appearances at conventions and maintains a Web site and Facebook and MySpace pages devoted to the role.

"Fans just love the scene," he says. The Gettysburg, Pa. resident has had other parts in movies and on stage, but it's the zombie role that continues to generate interest. People want to know about the special effects and how the role came about.



"I was on my way to a movie in Oakland," explains the Point Park graduate, "and I ran into Tom Savini, and he asked if I wanted to be in a movie he was working on."

Savini, a colleague from the Pittsburgh Playhouse, was a make-up and special effects artist for George Romero's film. He soon brought Krut to his studio and made a casting of his friend's head, adding several inches to the forehead area. The final prosthetic was rigged with fishing line that when pulled caused the fake head to fly away in slices, spurting imitation blood.

The Bravo network dubbed *Dawn of the Dead* one of the country's top 100 horror movies. During a special on the 100 scariest movie moments, the network cited Krut's scene as particularly memorable, he says.

Jim Krut continues to take on roles in movies and regional theater. He retired this past spring after a career writing for newspapers, editing a magazine and heading communications for a statewide association.

From his earliest days at Point Park—which he entered as the school's first recipient of a Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association scholarship—Krut combined his passions for journalism and acting. Now the balance has shifted, and he is looking forward to having more time for movies and theater.

Krut recently played the lead in *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You* at Gettysburg Stage, a theater company he helped to found. "It was my first time in a habit," the 6'4" actor deadpans.

He also has roles in three new horror films, including *Deadlands 2: Trapped*, which premiered in 2008.

## Alumna Rehearses Every Step of *Believe*

By Colleen C. Derda



Pam Chu is in the first row, second from left.

Dancer Pam Chu (COPA '00) rehearses every track in Cirque du Soleil's *Criss Angel Believe*. Promoted to a swing position only months after being selected as an artist, Chu needs to be ready if another artist becomes sick or can't perform, even as she rehearses her own evolving role. The show, choreographed by Wade Robson, has 22 dancers and two swing positions.

"It's demanding, but rewarding to help maintain the integrity of the show," says Chu [who works with fellow Point Park student Bruce Weber in the swing role].

*Believe* opened in the Luxor Resort and Casino in Las Vegas last year and is expected to



"It's an intense show for us five days a week."

run through early 2010. The show continues to develop as Criss Angel, the mentalist known for his television show, integrates new illusions and the production changes based on audience feedback. The artists rehearse most of the day and perform two shows a night.

"It's an intense show for us five days a week," says Chu, noting that the dancers are either performing or back-stage switching elaborate costumes, changing from rabbits to various other animals. Getting ready for every role adds a whole new level to the challenge, but Chu's professional and personal outlook means she takes the additional work in stride.

"The cast is amazing," she says simply.

Chu was one of 200 dancers invited to audition for Wade Robson for the show in Los Angeles. She continues to maintain a home in the

entertainment capital and keeps in touch with many Point Park graduates based there. She also trains and works for Sonya Tayeh Dance in L.A.

Chu's past work includes serving as a company member for Mark Meisner's *Evolution*. She appeared in commercials for Quizno's and Herbalife and was a featured dancer in television specials for E! ("Hollywood's Sexiest Jobs") and *Scrubs* ("The Musical") and in the film *Walk Hard*. Last year she appeared on the cover of Dance Spirit magazine.

Pam Chu graduated magna cum laude.

"Doug Bentz was a big influence on me. Along with other Point Park professionals, he helped to shape the dancer I am today."

The University has also helped shape the dance career of Pam's sister Jillian. After graduating from Point Park five years ago, Jillian Chu (COPA '04) has immersed herself in contemporary dance, playing a role in the San Diego community as founding director of BOUND

By Colleen C. Derda

## ALUMNUS KEEPS COMING BACK TO ZOMBIE ROLE

Visit [www.helizombie.com](http://www.helizombie.com) to see a video clip of *Deadlands 2* and check out upcoming appearances by Jim Krut, the helicopter zombie.



# class notes



holds a doctorate in traditional naturopathy from Clayton College of Natural Health. To find out more, go to [www.healingcirclemassage.com](http://www.healingcirclemassage.com).

**Taryn Hughes** (COPA 1997) is founding executive director of Youth Abilitation, a non-profit group for at-risk youth in Los Angeles. Youth Abilitation is dedicated to developing the inner support system of youth and young adults. Community programs offer multi-sensory, interactive curriculums including meditation, mindfulness, movement, yoga, discussion, reflective expression and instructional mentoring to engage growth and self-discovery. To learn more about Youth Abilitation, visit the Web site at: [Youth-Abilitation.org](http://Youth-Abilitation.org).

**Anthony Hollock** (COPA '06) was crowned queen supreme in the Broadway Beauty Pageant Charity Competition benefitting the Ali Forney Center, which provides shelter and services to homeless LGBT youth in New York City. Hollock competed against four other Broadway stars in the pageant, complete with interviews,

**David Whalen** (COPA 1982) is portraying the role of Russ Coble in the new CBS medical drama *Three Rivers* on Sundays at 9 p.m. The show centers around an elite team of transplant surgeons in a Pittsburgh hospital. The show's pilot features a scene with five Point Park men's basketball players and two athletic staff members in which a player is injured during a practice session and treated for an injury.

Whalen, recipient of the 2009 Kevin Kline Award for Outstanding Leading Actor in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, teaches graduate acting at Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts and acting at Carnegie Mellon's School of Drama. Whalen took part in Pittsburgh's City Theater production of *Speak American* and Pittsburgh's Irish and Classical Theater production of *Doubt*, where he starred as Father Flynn.



**Kathy Gruver** (COPA 1992) has produced and released her first instructional massage DVD, *Therapeutic Massage at Home: Learn to Rub People the Right Way*. This DVD teaches the beginner how to do massage for home health. **Rick Reifenstein** (COPA 1992) wrote and performed the original soundtrack for the DVD. Gruver

First row from left: Marlana Walsh (COPA '01), Kiesha Lalama-White, Kiki Lucas (COPA 1999), Allison Becker, Lauren Garson (COPA '04); back row from left: Jamie DelGrosso (COPA 1999, COM, M.A. '07); Jocelyn Labriola-Hrzic; Mia Price (COPA 1993); Jason McDole, faculty member in the Conservatory of Performing Arts; Kellie Hodges and Cassandra Taylor.



talent and swimsuit competitions. He is currently making his Broadway debut in *HAIR* after a successful run in Central Park. He is a cofounder of MGC Productions, an LGBT based company promoting human equality.

Fresh from graduation with the United States Secret Service, **Greg Lipner** (A&S, M.S. '07) provided protection for President Barack Obama and his family during the days and weeks before and after the Jan. 20 inauguration. Lipner graduated into the Secret Service just five days before the inauguration, however, he has been in training since June of 2008. In preparation for the inauguration, Lipner worked between 12 and 20-hour days. He said he hardly notices the long hours because he enjoys his work. While on duty, Lipner met the president and his family and several celebrities, including Smokey Robinson.

A group of alumni performed a new work titled *Rise*, choreographed by **Kiesha Lalama-White** (COPA 1995), at the Grier School in Trenton, Pa., in March. The performance was organized by **Jocelyn Labriola Hrzic** (COPA 1994), artistic director for the Grier Summer Program, as part of the school's annual gala.



## RETURN TO PARIS

**Channa Newman, Ph.D.**, professor in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Humanities, is planning a reunion in Paris for all alumni who took part in past trips to France. Newman has been taking Point Park students to France for over 30 years. Past trips have included visits to Normandy beaches, the Cannes Film Festival and Paris. In May, Newman offered an on-site course in contemporary French culture as part of the Global Studies Program. The group stayed in Paris and toured all around the city.

If you have participated in a previous trip to France with Point Park, please let us know! Please email **John Pine**, manager of alumni relations, at [jpine@pointpark.edu](mailto:jpine@pointpark.edu) or Channa Newman at [cnewman@pointpark.edu](mailto:cnewman@pointpark.edu) with your most recent contact information. We want to make sure all alumni who participated in previous trips can come to the upcoming reunion event in Pittsburgh this winter. Discussions are underway for an alumni trip to Paris in the spring of 2010.



## THE POINT READER SURVEY

Thanks to those who participated in The Point Reader Survey. The survey helps the editorial team to gauge reader interests, expectations and impressions. The response to the survey has provided valuable feedback and is the basis for several changes to be implemented in the future.

Generally, the survey results indicate a positive impression of The Point with 90 percent of respondents rating their overall impression of

the magazine as above average. Stay tuned as the editorial team implements the newly defined mission and goals of The Point.

Congratulations to the survey participants who won the random drawing on April 3: Robert Tarpey (COM 1979), Joseph R. Greco (BUS 1971), Ron Slotnick (BUS 1969), Rod Jeffries (BUS 1971) and Howard Dobrushin (A&S 1971). The winners received a \$50 Visa gift card.



## Team Takes Its Games To Europe

The game of soccer has opened many doors for the members of the Point Park women's soccer team. Because of soccer, they've had the opportunity to receive a college education while competing at a high level in the game they love. In the process, they've made lifelong friends.

But over spring break last semester, they had an opportunity to take their college soccer experience to a whole new level.

From Feb. 27 to March 6, the women's soccer team traveled to Europe on a trip that allowed them to compete overseas and have a life-changing, learning experience.

"The trip was by far the best thing I've ever done during my time at Point Park," said midfielder Molly Reffner (COM '09),

who finished up her soccer career last fall. "I always wanted to study abroad, but for one reason or another it never came together. But because of soccer and Point Park, I was able to get a great experience."

The Pioneers spent three days in Amsterdam and three days in Paris, and they played an exhibition soccer game in each of the cities. The players had plenty of time for sightseeing, and they also attended a professional soccer game.

The trip was funded in part by the fundraising efforts of the women's soccer players. The Pioneers started their fundraising in December of 2007, more than 14 months before the trip. The players paid the difference out of their own pockets.



"If you talk to everyone who made the trip," said Reffner, "They'd tell you that the money was secondary. The trip paid us back and more. To be able to take that trip with your friends and play the sport you love is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Jeroen Walstra, who is in his fifth year as Point Park women's soccer coach, is a native of Holland. At a team function following the 2007 season, players brought up the idea of going to Europe. Walstra took it from there and organized the trip with the help of a travel agency.

"We had a group that had a goal to get this done," said Walstra. "After a lot of effort on their part, they had an excellent experience that most students don't have a chance to get. They learned so much by being exposed to different cultures. It's something that should be included in everyone's college education."

"And because the trip was soccer-related, the experience was much stronger. The players got to see places where soccer is an essential ingredient in the way of life. That is not something they see in their home country."

No one kept score during the exhibition games because the results were not the most significant part of the contests. Instead, it was more about two groups of young ladies sharing soccer as something they have in common.

"The language of soccer is universal," said Reffner, a native of Waynesboro. "It was really great to see that although the opponents spoke a different language and came from a different culture, we could get into the flow of a game with them."

When the team attended a professional game between Feyenoord and Vitesse, it was a totally new soccer experience.

"Going to a soccer game with 35,000 crazy fans was something that I had never done," said Amanda Trainor, a junior midfielder majoring in early childhood education. "Soccer is so important in Europe, and seeing that will help us as a team."

Reffner and Trainor both listed visiting the top of the Eiffel Tower as one of the highlights of the trip. And Reffner said she enjoyed the Sacre Coeur, a church in the Place du Tertre part of Paris.

"Hopefully the players will want to travel on their own and see the world because of the trip," said Walstra.

"I would love to live in Paris," added Trainor, a native of Pittsburgh.

"The trip taught me to be open-minded and enjoy things that are new and different," said Reffner, an advertising and public relations major. "I could not have asked for a better ending to my soccer career and my time at Point Park."



Photography by Frankie Donlon, sophomore photojournalism major



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## POINT PARK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI EVENTS

SNEAK PEEK 2009-2010

- > Alumni Community Service Projects
- > Distinguished Alumni Banquet
- > Downtown Networking Series
- > Holiday Party
- > Paris Trip Reunion
- > Student Club Reunions
- > Women's Leadership Series
  
- > Networking Mixers:
  - Education Department
  - Humanities and Human Sciences
  - School of Business
  - School of Communication
  
- > Regional Alumni Reunions  
across the country

### FOR DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS

as they become available, visit us online  
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at <http://tinyurl.com/PointParkAlumniFB>

Volunteer to help at any of these events!

Contact Kelly Clawson at

[kclawson@pointpark.edu](mailto:kclawson@pointpark.edu) or 412-392-4204.

