

THE POINT

PACKED HOUSE

Celebrating the journey of the Pittsburgh Playhouse from Oakland to Downtown Pittsburgh

PLAYHOUSE

PITTSBURGH
PLAYHOUSE



Dear alumni and friends,

With the new year already well underway, it's an opportunity to reflect on our past, present and future, particularly the exciting year that lies ahead for Point Park.

There's never been a better time to be a Point Park student. In the past year our academic offerings continued to expand, providing new opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students –

on campus and online. We're proud that our dedication to high-impact educational practices once again earned Point Park recognition as one of the nation's Colleges of Distinction for 2017-18. The University was applauded for its unique learning environment, where students not only earn college credit and valuable life experience, but also participate in character-building community-based learning programs, service learning programs, interdisciplinary programs, collaborative projects, capstone projects, study abroad programs and internships. The selection process includes a review of each college's freshman experience, general education program, strategic plan, alumni success, satisfaction measures and more.

Our goal at Point Park is to create a personalized support system for every student. We want them to understand that we are fully invested in their success, and have dedicated faculty and staff who will guide them through their college careers and beyond. Our students have access to the kind of real-world experience necessary to make an immediate impact as professionals.

Later this year, we'll join together to celebrate the journey of the Pittsburgh

Playhouse, which will move from Oakland to our Downtown Pittsburgh campus. At our Lights Out celebration on June 18, we'll enjoy sharing memories and entertainment as we bid farewell to the old Playhouse. Watch for more information, and plan to join us this summer for Lights Out. In the fall, the excitement will continue with the grand opening of the new Pittsburgh Playhouse, an incredible, one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary center for all facets of entertainment management, including our nationally-ranked Conservatory of Performing Arts. As I've said before, we believe the new Pittsburgh Playhouse will become the heartbeat of Downtown Pittsburgh.

Whether we're reflecting on the past, or looking to the future, the Point Park family has much to celebrate together. We look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan
President



ON THE COVER:
Packing a mountain of memories at the Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland, in preparation for the big move to the heart of Point Park's Downtown campus.

Photo by John Altdorfer.

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TALK TO US!

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

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This policy affirms Point Park University's commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and the pursuit of diversity. Point Park University does not discriminate on the basis of: sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, age (40 years and over), ancestry, individuals with disabilities, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, height, weight, genetic information, marital status, caregiver status or familial status, in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities or with respect to employment or admission to the University's educational programs and activities.

This policy is in accord with local, state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Pittsburgh Human Relations Act. Inquiries regarding these regulations and policies, or complaints of discrimination, should be referred to the vice president of human resources, phone number 412-392-3952. Inquiries regarding Title IX and the Title IX regulations should also be referred to the Title IX coordinator or to the deputy Title IX coordinators: the associate provost, the vice president of human resources or the vice president of student affairs.

Professional Advancement

Robert Derda, assistant professor in the Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management program in the Rowland School of Business, represented Point Park as a judge at the first “Steel City Sales Challenge” sponsored by the Center for Leadership in Professional Selling at Duquesne University and Steel Dynamics, Inc. in October 2017.

Gregory T. Rogers, J.D., professor and director of the Master of Arts in intelligence and global security program, is executive team member of the NAACP, Pennsylvania as well as chair of the organization’s Criminal Justice Committee. Rogers is also chair of the Criminal Justice Committee for the NAACP Pittsburgh Chapter. **Richard Stewart** is executive committee member of the NAACP, Pennsylvania as well as the new president of the Pittsburgh Chapter. The swearing in ceremony took place in December 2017.

Dimitris J. Kraniou, Ph.D., professor of international economics and global management for the Rowland School of Business, met with students in his hometown of Kalamata, Greece. Students of the press/journalism class of Number 10 Elementary School of Paralia/Kalamata, Greece, – the school he attended as a child – interviewed Kraniou about academics in the United States, the rigors of higher education, and life in America. Kraniou teaches international economics and quantitative management courses in the M.B.A. program.

Paige Beal, M.B.A., assistant professor and chair of the Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management Department, received a grant from the International Radio and Television Society to attend its 2018 Faculty Industry Seminar in Las

Vegas, Nev. Coordinated with the Consumer Technology Association (organizer of the renowned Consumer Electronics Show), the IRTS Faculty Industry Seminar focused on “Media Insiders: Today’s Opportunities and Tomorrow’s Challenges” and featured major speakers and panelists from media’s biggest players, including Disney, CBS and FOX. Beal said that she “shared with our SAEM faculty what I learned at the conference and am incorporating this new knowledge into our courses and curriculum.”

David Grande, a part-time professor who teaches journalistic writing, recently produced a one-act trial based on 1,500 pages of documents as part of a re-enactment of the 100th anniversary of the Great Castle Shannon bank robbery. The robbery resulted in two tellers and one robber killed. Grande, who is president of The South Hills Players, also directed the 20 re-enactment actors. The August 2017 event was attended by more than 500 people.

Felicia McKinney, manager of social media, and **Annie Cassin**, director of student engagement, authored case studies in *Complex Cases in Student Affairs: Preparing Early Career Professionals for the Practice*. The book’s 22 case studies provide students and professionals with an understanding of how problems in student affairs might be addressed through the application of relevant theory/research. “My chapter is about an incident at an overnight orientation involving student leaders who were found drinking with new students,” Cassin said. “It examines how the incident affected the new students, their families and the dynamic of a close-knit orientation team.” McKinney said, “Mine is about a social media scandal on a campus and how that situation impacts the students involved and the university.” Cassin and

McKinney completed their projects as part of their master’s program at Slippery Rock University.

Greg Kettelman is the new director of advancement resources in the department of Development and Alumni Relations. Previously, he was manager of prospect research in the department of Institutional Advancement at Tennessee State University Foundation in Nashville. His primary focus and expertise is in prospect research, prospect management, prospect policies and procedures and developing individual fundraising strategies. Kettelman has also worked at Temple University and as a consultant with Ketchum.

Graham Hoffman has been named the head coach of the Pioneers men’s and women’s golf teams. Hoffman, a native of Bridgeville, Pa., takes over the program from **Gabe Bubon**, who was the head coach the last eight years but has moved on to be Point Park men’s basketball head coach. Hoffman brings many years of experience in golf. Since 2010, he has been an assistant golf professional at Hickory Heights Golf Club. He is also involved with the Tri-State PGA and the West Penn Golf Association (WPGA) working on tournament setups and handicaps.

Brendan Mullan, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, was among more than two dozen educators who took part in Celebrating Space Exploration, a special event that offered online hangouts to classrooms around the county on Nov. 17, 2017. Mullan, an astrophysicist and astrobiologist, studies how galaxies collide and form stars in their interstellar wreckage, as well as the intersection of SETI (search for extra-terrestrial intelligence), ethics and humanity’s future. “This is a great way for teachers to offer

students a way to connect with possible career paths in space science,” he said. View Mullan’s presentation online at: <http://bit.ly/2n4hqNI>.

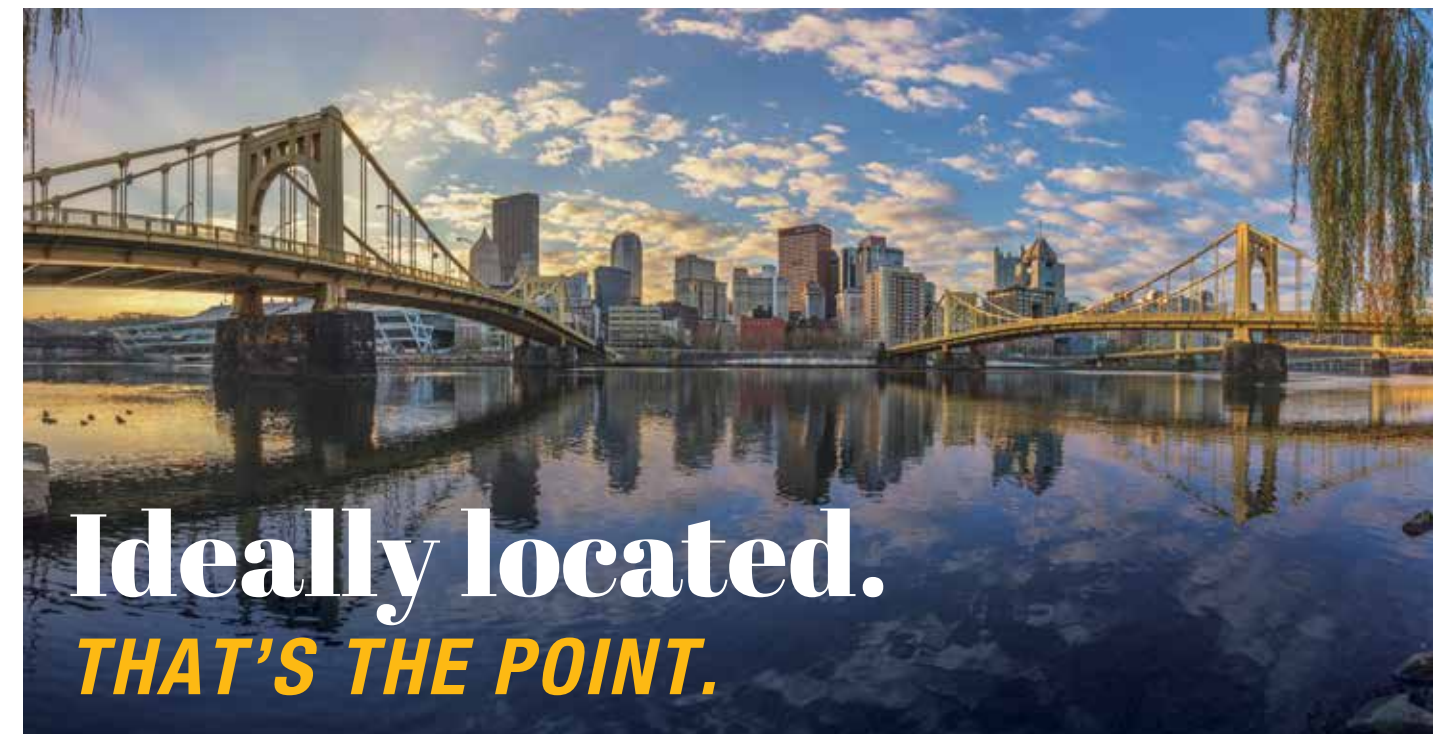


Marty Schiff is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Cinema

Arts. While a theatre student at Point Park, Schiff’s film career started by killing zombies in George A. Romero’s *Dawn of the Dead*. In Hollywood, he worked on shows with major networks and studios, including *Dallas*, *Knight Rider*, *Newhart*, as well as dozens of television shows in the ‘80s and ‘90s. He played a role in pioneering the Nickelodeon network with the groundbreaking series *Out of Control*, and he founded one of the first all-digital production companies in the region. “[Sharing my career] with the next generation of filmmakers is incredibly fulfilling. Plus, working with my students keeps my perspective fresh in the industry,” says Schiff.

Karen Farmer White, a member of Point Park’s Board of Trustees, was appointed chair of the State Board of Education. Gov. Tom Wolf appointed Farmer White in December, making her the first African-American chair of the board. Farmer White has been instrumental in advancing educational equity and access in Pennsylvania, including significant components of the state’s academic standards. The State Board works closely with the Department of Education, state officials and educators to review, develop and adopt policies that govern basic and higher education in Pennsylvania.

In fall 2017, the University initiated an awareness campaign focusing on the value of a Point Park education. The campaign, which included a variety of advertisements and media placements in the region and beyond, highlights Point Park’s ideal location in Downtown Pittsburgh as well as other attributes. It is aimed at ensuring that prospective students know that they can afford the personalized, results-oriented education that the University delivers.



Ideally located.
THAT’S THE POINT.

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PointPark.edu/Value

Welcome New Faculty

Point Park welcomed the following new faculty members for the fall 2017 semester: (Conservatory of Performing Arts) **April Daras**, assistant professor of Theatre; **Colleen Hooper**, assistant professor of Dance History; **Tim Marquette**, visiting associate professor of Theatre and head of Private Voice; **Hanjin Park**, assistant professor of Directing; **Matthew Powell**, assistant professor of Dance; **Caitlin Scranton**, visiting artist of Dance; (Rowland School of Business) **Robert Derda**,

assistant professor of Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management; **Sandra Mervosh**, assistant professor of Human Resources and coordinator of Human Resources Management Program; **Patrick Mulvihill**, assistant professor of Management; (School of Arts and Sciences) **Todd Avellar**, assistant professor of Psychology and practicum placement coordinator, Psy.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology Program; **Randall Bendis**, laboratory instructor of Natural Sciences, Engineering and Engineering Technology; **Eric Stennett**, assistant professor of Education and

director of the Ed.D. in Leadership and Administration Program; (Department of Community Engagement) **Sera Mathew**, assistant professor of Community Engagement.

Institute of World Politics Partnership

The Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C. This agreement offers significant benefits for Point Park students and alumni, including reserved placements in the IWP internship program, and the opportunity to seek early admission as candidates for IWP's master's degree programs. Point Park graduates who are admitted to IWP's M.A. programs are guaranteed scholarships of \$2,200 per semester, in addition to any merit-based scholarships already available to general applicants. The partnership, facilitated by **Tim Stebbins**, IWP director of graduate recruitment, and **Gregory Rogers, J.D.**, professor and director of the Master of Arts in intelligence and global security program, was signed into agreement at the University's annual black tie event known as "The Gathering" on December 7. Stebbins said: "IWP and Point Park have a mutual commitment to the defense of the American way of life, and our efforts are greatly strengthened by our new partnership. This endeavor will streamline our central mission of educating the next generation of leadership in intelligence, diplomacy and national security."

2017 Baseball Winter Meetings

From ESPN to the Altoona Curve, 12 Point Park students landed more than 100 internship/job interviews with industry executives at the 2017 Baseball Winter



The AACC and the Rowland School of Business

Point Park's Rowland School of Business was well-represented at the annual African American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) business luncheon at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh on Dec. 18. Participants included Rowland School Dean **Steve Tanzilli, J.D.**; Point Park Board of Trustees Chair **Joe Greco**; Professor of Accounting **Margaret Gilfillan, M.B.A.**; and business students **Amber Mole** and **Devon Tate**, both of whom have participated in the University's new cooperative education (co-op) program. **Tim Ryan**, US chairman and senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), spoke at the gathering about how he initiated a corporate inclusion effort among Fortune 1000 companies. Mole, a dual-major in business management and accounting at Point Park, received a full-time job offer from PwC after completing a co-op position with the Big Four firm.

Meetings and PBEO Job Fair Dec. 10-14 in Orlando. To prepare for the meetings and job fair, the students – representing Point Park's Pittsburgh Center for Sports Media and Marketing – held weekly meetings during the fall semester to create their resumes, hold mock interviews and research the teams and executives attending. "I had interviews with eight teams and received an offer from the Omaha Storm Chasers and Perfect Game USA. I interviewed with ESPN, Salem Red Sox, West Virginia Power, the Altoona Curve, among others. One of, if not, the most rewarding experiences was establishing connections at the meetings. Everyone I met was so willing to

offer advice," said **Allison Schubert**, a broadcast reporting major.

National Collegiate Honors Conference

Three Honors Program students and Honors Program Director **Helen Fallon** attended and presented their academic work at the 2017 National Collegiate Honors Council conference Nov. 8-11 in Atlanta. "I presented on feminist fairy tales, specifically on how Sylvia Plath takes fairy tales and revises them in her poems," said **Autumn Barszczowski**, Honors Student Organization president-

elect and a public relations and advertising major. "I took the Feminist Fairy Tales class last spring with Assistant Professor **Jessica McCort, Ph.D.**, and my presentation was a project for the course." **Sarah Martin**, HSO president and an education major, participated in a roundtable discussion about cultivating student leadership with Professor Fallon, along with the coordinator of the Honors Program at Monroe College and a Monroe honors student. Biology major **Anastasia Gorbunova** presented a poster about learning organic chemistry, through a board game she created with **Romain Stalder**, a part-time instructor at Point Park.



Well-being for Dancers

Point Park dance students and faculty learned about body image and eating disorders from The Renfrew Center – a nationally known organization that treats eating disorders and other behavioral health issues – during an on-campus workshop last fall. "To my knowledge, this is the first time the dance department hosted a presentation on eating disorders," said **Garfield Lemonius**, associate professor. "Our dancers' total well-being is important to us, and we want to ensure that our students are provided with access to resources to be truly successful at Point Park." The dance department partners with Point Park's athletic trainers, who focus on prevention and treatment of dance-related injuries, as well as University Counseling Services, to educate and empower students about their mental health. Students were provided information about treatment options available at The Renfrew Center of Pittsburgh's facility, located in Oakland, a short shuttle ride from campus. "This presentation had a friendly, informal tone and it provided students space to think about the issues surrounding eating disorders," said **Colleen Hooper**, assistant professor.



Family Weekend 2017

More than 140 Point Park families explored campus, enjoyed student exhibits and performances, and ventured in and around the city during Family Weekend 2017, held Oct. 6-8 on the University's Downtown Pittsburgh campus. Highlights included java and live jazz in Village Park, a family brunch in Lawrence Hall, performances by theatre and dance students, screenings of student films, an exhibit of student photography, Point Park athletic events, a visit to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium and a ride on the Duquesne Incline.

Forum on #MeToo

Point Park assembled a panel of experts from a variety of disciplines to engage students on issues surrounding sexual assault and harassment in the workplace at a campus event on Feb. 7. With the cultural conversation on workplace harassment and assault issues exploding in recent months, the University organized the forum to enable students to discuss questions and concerns about what they might face once their professional careers begin. The panel used real world scenarios to interact with students on what they can do to protect themselves and others. The event was moderated by **Sharon Ebersson**, online features editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, with assistance from **Elizabeth Rosemeyer**, Title IX coordinator at Point Park, and **Andrew Conte**, director of the Center for Media Innovation at Point Park. Panelists included: **Nancy Mosser**, CSA, owner of Nancy Mosser Casting, and Point Park educators **Sandra**

Mervosh, assistant professor of human resources; **April Friges**, professor of photography; and **Robert McInerney**, professor of psychology and a licensed Title IX investigator. Questions were submitted before, during and after the event using the hashtag #MeTooPointPark via Twitter.

Creative Nonfiction Conference

Creative nonfiction – and the art, craft and business behind it – will be explored at the 2018 Creative Nonfiction Writers' Conference, May 24-26, at Point Park's Center for Media Innovation. The annual conference is led by the Creative Nonfiction Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in Pittsburgh by American writer and literary innovator Lee Gutkind. It provides opportunities for writers of all levels to meet individually with literary agents, get advice from publishing professionals, hear what different kinds of editors are looking for and learn to hone their skills in inspiring small group sessions.

For more information and to register, visit: creativenonfiction.org.

Talk Back with John Clayton

Point Park's Talk Back Series offers the public a chance to hear from and interact with unique speakers with ties to the Pittsburgh region. NFL writer and commentator **John Clayton**, a native of Braddock, Pa., will conclude the series on March 19. Clayton spent more than 20 years at ESPN and was inducted into the writers' wing of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2007. He will discuss the ever-changing role of media in sports, and the evolution of the Super Bowl from just a championship game into a two-week media frenzy. **Bob Pompeani**, KDKA-TV sports anchor and Point Park alum, will moderate the event. Talk Back is sponsored by TribLive, Herbein + Company, Talk Radio 1320 WJAS and the McGinnis Endowment. Visit www.pittsburghplayhouse.com or call 412-392-8000 for ticket information.

MAKING BROADWAY DREAMS POSSIBLE



Point Park University was the exclusive education partner for the 2017 Broadway Dreams Supper at The Plaza in New York City on Dec. 12. The event honored Tony and Grammy Award-winner Heather Headley, who celebrated the 20th anniversary of her Broadway debut in Disney's landmark musical *The Lion King*.

The annual black-tie event raises awareness and support for the not-for-profit organization Broadway Dreams and its mission to make world-class performing arts education accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status. University Trustee **Ryan Stana** (COPA '02), founder and CEO of RWS Entertainment Group and a longtime supporter of Broadway Dreams, spoke at the event. Also in attendance were acclaimed Broadway director and choreographer **Rob Ashford** (COPA '83, HON '10) and Point Park President **Paul Hennigan** and his wife Colleen.

Guests enjoyed performances by the Grammy Award-winning duo A Great Big World, Tony and Grammy Award-winner Jessie Mueller (*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Waitress*), Tony Award nominee Denée Benton (*The Great Comet*), Quentin Earl Darrington (*Once on This Island*), Noah J. Ricketts (*Frozen*) and more. Since 2006, Broadway Dreams has engaged more than 11,000 students and has awarded more than \$1 million in financial need-based scholarships. The organization provides youth and young adults of all socioeconomic backgrounds with performance training, life-skills building, and mentorship opportunities from the industry's brightest talents. Broadway Dreams program intensives have been featured in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Charlotte and Philadelphia and in Brazil, Russia and Canada. ❖

All photos by Peter Roessler, courtesy of Broadway Dreams.

BUILDING STRONG COACHES

New fully online M.Ed. in athletic coaching strengthens coaches and athletes alike

by Barbara Vilanova



Shane Conley (right), an assistant baseball coach at Point Park, is a graduate student in the new M.Ed. coaching degree program.



Pioneers women's basketball coach Tony Grenek guides players on the court.

As a mother to two young boys who were sports fanatics, Darlene Marnich, Ph.D., professor and chair of Point Park University's education department, knows how important coaches can be to a young person's development.

"Whether a child or teenager is going to be a star player or one who sees lots of bench time, good coaching can help encourage that girl or boy to not only excel at their sport to the best of their ability, but also help them develop focus, empathy and self-esteem," she said. Marnich's time spent watching her sons play sports and interaction with coaches became the inspiration for the M.Ed. in athletic coaching, a fully online master's program graduating its first class this year. The second cohort begins in the spring of 2018.

Transforming coaching practices

The Master in Education in athletic coaching program is framed by the National Standards for Sports Coaches, established by the Society of Health and Physical Educators. These standards are expected by school and university administrators, athletes, parents and the public nationwide. Point Park's

Master of Education in athletic coaching program includes a focus on: how to effectively communicate to stakeholders, safety and emergency response, ethical decision-making, administering a coaching program, and practical applications in the support and development of athletes' skills.

"We wanted to approach coaching in the same reflexive and transformative way that we do all our education programs, which is to recognize the developmental and emotional differences of athletes of all ages and skill levels," said Marnich. The range of students in the program, and their varying backgrounds and experiences, help enhance the classroom dynamic as well.

"Some of our students have only been coaching for a few years, and others are seasoned professionals looking to deepen their understanding of effective coaching practices," she explained. Marnich believes educators who are also coaches "recognize and value the importance of further education in improving their skills and advancing their careers."

For Molly Meehan, a student in the first class cohort and current high school varsity swim coach, the coaching pro-

gram has been revelatory in many ways. "There are so many aspects of coaching that go beyond the technical and tactical skills of sports," she said. According to Meehan, students in the program represent various sports and that most, if not all, had positive experiences as student athletes themselves.

"I think having the background as an athlete and now as a coach informs not only how you approach the coaching program but ultimately what you will bring back to your student athletes to ensure that all of them have positive experiences, no matter the skill level," said Meehan.

A growing field

According to the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, athletic coaching is a field growing nationally as well as locally, with recent surveys indicating that approximately 10,000 coaches and scouts are employed in Western Pennsylvania. The fully online format was designed to provide flexibility for working professionals, especially teachers and those already coaching sports teams.

For Pennsylvania teachers, the graduate program will fulfill the 24 post-baccalaureate credits needed for an Instructional II certificate. Graduates of the program will be prepared for coaching opportunities in various settings, including K-12, public or private colleges and universities, travel or club teams and professional sports teams.

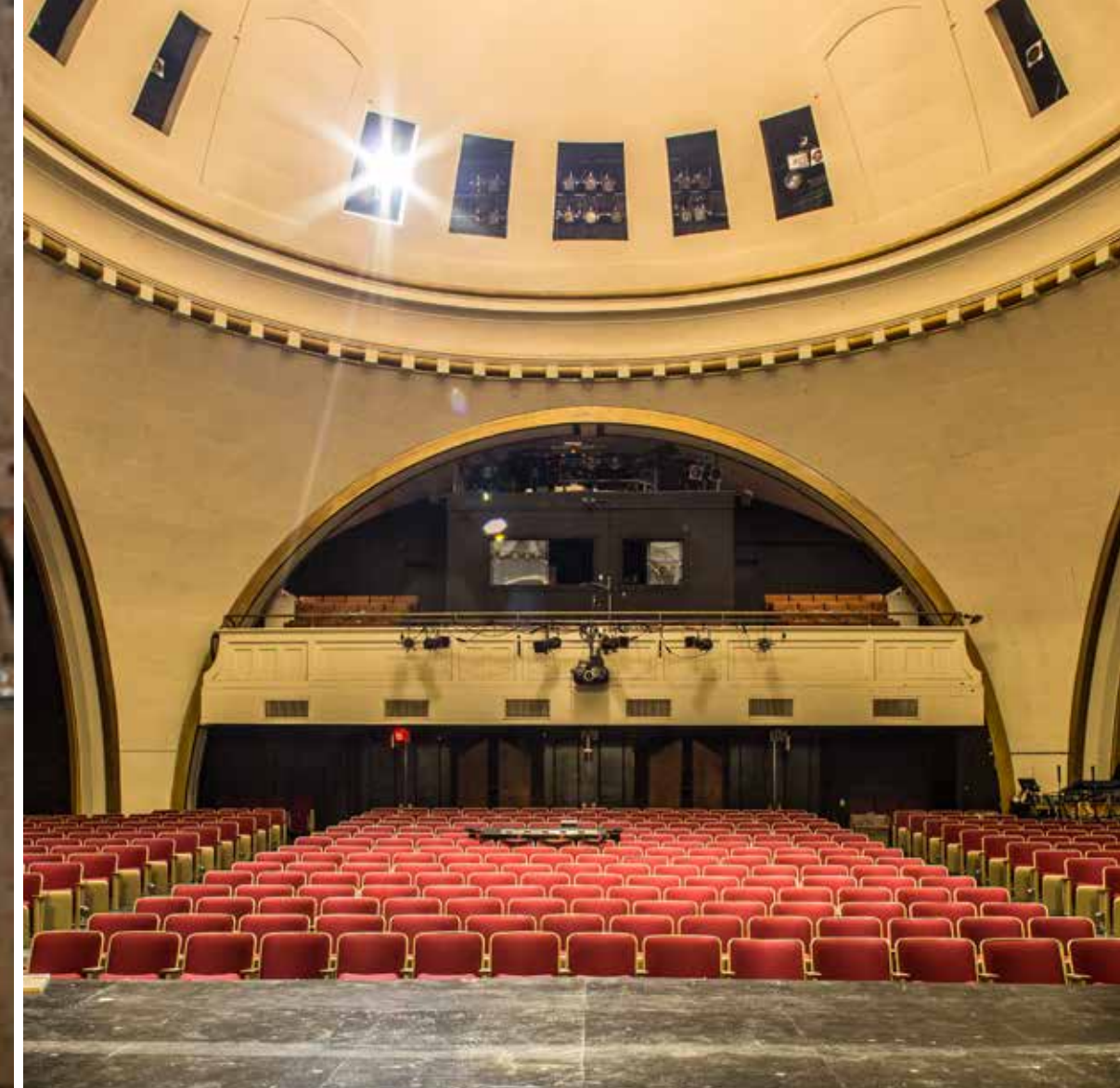
As an assistant men's basketball coach at Westminster College, Point Park alumnus and former Pioneers basketball star Chivas Whipple (see page 32) welcomed the opportunity to interact with coaches to learn new and innovative ways to implement techniques into his own coaching program. "The classroom interface was very easy to use and the teacher feedback has been impressive."

Ultimately, said Marnich, "We want students to not go back to 'business as usual' when they finish the program and return to their coaching and teaching responsibilities. The goal of this program is for students to learn from our expert faculty, and each other, so that they not only become better coaches, but stronger mentors and educators." ❖

MOVING MEMORIES AND A PLAYHOUSE

Alumna and Producing Director Kim Martin reflects on the journey of the Pittsburgh Playhouse as it moves from Oakland to Downtown Pittsburgh

by Barbara Vilanova



When Kim Martin (COPA 1990) gives her behind-the-scenes tour of the soon-to-be-former Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland, she doesn't start inside the front door. Instead, she asks visitors to go across the street. Once there, she displays copies of old black and white photos of the three buildings that were combined to create the Playhouse.

"To the left was a German social club, in the center a nice, private home, and on the right, the old Tree of Life synagogue. It's been patched together over the years, which has created a catacomb of nooks and crannies – all of which leak or let in

weather. That's a long way of saying, I think it is all unique, but well past its prime," she laughs.

So, despite more than 80 years of hosting a restaurant, movie theater, amazing performances, master classes, and layers and layers of memories for staff, faculty, and current and former students, the old Playhouse is taking its final curtain call. The question is ... how do you move a Playhouse?

"Very slowly!" said Martin, the producing director of the Pittsburgh Playhouse. "Imagine how much a 46,000-square-foot building can collect. We've been sorting, donating, giving away

and disposing of items for over a year. Our next step is prioritizing what goes to the new Playhouse. So basically – yes, no and maybe categories."

Repurposing is a theater tradition

While Martin wasn't surprised at the amount of work involved in packing up the Playhouse, she did call the process of combing through decades of theater props and costumes somewhat "overwhelming." What was easier, though, was making the decisions about what to keep and what to let go. "I left that up to our extremely deft department heads. These

are all working professionals – they keep up with the latest technology and know exactly what is or isn't going to be useful for current and future productions."

Some might think that a valuable item or two was unearthed in the process, but according to Martin, "Theater folk are famous for operating on shoestring budgets and truly making 'silk purses out of sow's ears,' so there is seldom anything of monetary value lying about. We are more like the TV show *Trash to Treasure*, always repurposing something for the run of another show."



Time travel

It's safe to say that for Martin, moving the Playhouse was a bit like time travel since she spent much of her young adulthood in the building. A native of Pittsburgh's East End, Martin attended Point Park and got her B.F.A. degree in 1987. After graduating, she worked on and off for Point Park, all the while directing and acting on the side. When Ronald Allan-Lindblom took the helm as artistic director of the Playhouse, he offered Martin the job of production stage manager and asked her to develop a stage management program for the Conservatory of Performing Arts.

"For me, stage managing was the best way to marry performance and technical theatre. You have a foot in each world. The technicians, designers, and stage managers don't always get the accolades that a performer does. But when a designer, director or actor thanks me, they really understand what goes into bringing a play to a full production," she explains. According to Martin, Point Park students are encouraged to look at all avenues to make a career in theater.

"Performing on a level where you can support yourself isn't easy – there's a lot of luck, perseverance and sacrifice involved. If you want to be in theater, being a good technician or stage manager can mean a rewarding career for life."

Expert at the back of the house

It's her love of what happens behind the curtains that prompts her deep appreciation of the people she works with at the Playhouse. In particular is legendary costume shop supervisor Joan Markert, who has been at the Playhouse for 37 years. "She is solely responsible for our massive costume inventory, much of which we make available to others, including high schools, universities and other theaters," Martin explains. Markert's knowledge of the inventory of costumes continues to amaze her co-workers, even after so many years.

"There are many conversations that go like this: 'I need a 1950's plaid skirt that is primarily blue!' Joan's reply 'At our warehouse in the Strip District, there are about 40 piles of clothes on the left-hand side. In pile number 27 about half-way down, you'll find what you are looking for.' Not kidding. Not even exaggerating," says Martin. There are plans in the works to host a tag sale of remaining Playhouse items, the proceeds of which may go toward a theater tech scholarship.

In addition to costumes, the Playhouse has rooms and rooms of very specific items, for example, one just for belts and ties. There are shelves and shelves of glasses, mugs, model ships,



old cameras, early computers, vacuum cleaners, picture frames, fireplace bellows and the list goes on and on. But nestled among all these rooms is something else: remnants of the Playhouse Restaurant.

Heyday hangout

What was an Oakland fixture in the 1950s, 1960s and into the 1970s, the Playhouse Restaurant was located in the lower level of the Playhouse, under what is now the Rauh Theater. A tufted leather door, a huge commercial oven hood, original carpeting, a very Mad Men-era water feature, gold-tiled columns and even an original Playhouse Restaurant sign (minus the “e”) are still visible.

In fact, many Playhouse props are located in former restaurant storage rooms. For example, the “onion and potato” cellar is the current home of vintage cameras and computers. In its heyday, the restaurant hosted opening nights and exhibitions of local artists. It was closed in the late 1970s when the University took over the space for the Playhouse. Another “wow” feature of the former Playhouse Restaurant was the wall murals. Thought to be wallpaper murals designed by legendary caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, Martin remembers staring at the drawings during class, looking for the artist’s signature “Nina” (his daughter’s name) hidden among the drawings.

According to Martin, the main part of the Hirschfeld mural wallpaper, which contained his classic characters, was in the Lillian Russell Room of the old restaurant. Unfortunately, it was

painted over in the early 1990s. “I don’t think I found the ‘Nina’ signature until my junior year,” she laughs. “But it was inspirational to sit in that room, being trained as an artist, and stare at famous theatre people who we all wanted to be some day.”

The next act, a state-of-the-art teaching theater

For someone who has worked so long in one place, Martin is not overly sentimental about leaving the current Playhouse for the new five-story, 92,000-square-foot facility located in Downtown Pittsburgh, in the heart of Point Park’s campus community. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.

“I’m very much looking forward to it not raining on stage when it is raining outside, to an indoor loading dock, to better theater

spaces, classrooms, dressing rooms, prop rooms and everything else that our new home will have,” said Martin.

Having been, in her words, “a student, apprentice, actor, director, usher, popcorn slinger, stage manager, production manager and finally, producing director” of the Pittsburgh Playhouse, what she is perhaps most excited about, for the new Playhouse, is being part of the Point Park campus.

“For so long, we’ve been somewhat isolated in Oakland. But when the new facility opens, we’ll have a chance to be one with the entire campus community, and share energy, ideas and inspiration.

“As educators, what more could you ask for? I can’t wait!” ❖

SHARE YOUR Pittsburgh Playhouse Memories

To say a proper goodbye to the Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland, and a welcoming hello to the new Pittsburgh Playhouse downtown, you're invited to share your fondest, silliest or most sentimental Pittsburgh Playhouse memories at: www.pittsburghplayhouse.com/about/playhouse-stories. For anyone who the Playhouse has touched, including Point Park University and Conservatory of the Performing Arts alumni, staff, faculty, theatregoers, actors and the public, it's an opportunity to reminisce through its 85 years, and submit a memory for consideration to be posted on the Share Your Pittsburgh Playhouse Memories page. Check out the memories at: www.pittsburghplayhouse.com/about/playhouse-stories/our-stories

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Lights Out Celebration | June 18, 2018

The Pittsburgh Playhouse, Craft Avenue, Oakland

"The Pittsburgh Playhouse is a wonderful place! It's responsible for everything that has happened to me in my career. I had the opportunity to play so many wonderful parts. We also worked hard behind the scenes, everything from operating the curtains to painting the sets. We learned all aspects of the business and that's one of the things I loved about it."

- Shirley Jones
Academy Award-winning actress
Honorary Chair, Playhouse Campaign

"Performing in One Act and Gulliver's Travels my sophomore year! Classes and rehearsing in the damp smelly basement!...But the best smell ever! Acting class in the black box with Rich! I learned so much from him! I'm forever grateful for my Point Park experience!"

- Hannah Votta Coleman

"The Pittsburgh Playhouse was my home away from home. If we weren't in class or sleeping, we were there, growing, changing, becoming. This facility provided me with a safe place to become the artist I still am to this day. I am forever grateful to this building and the magic it made possible."

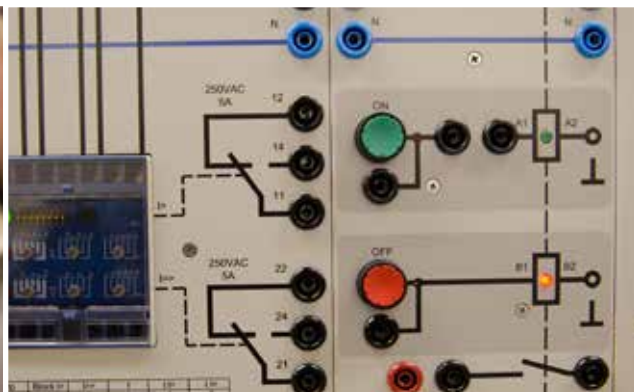
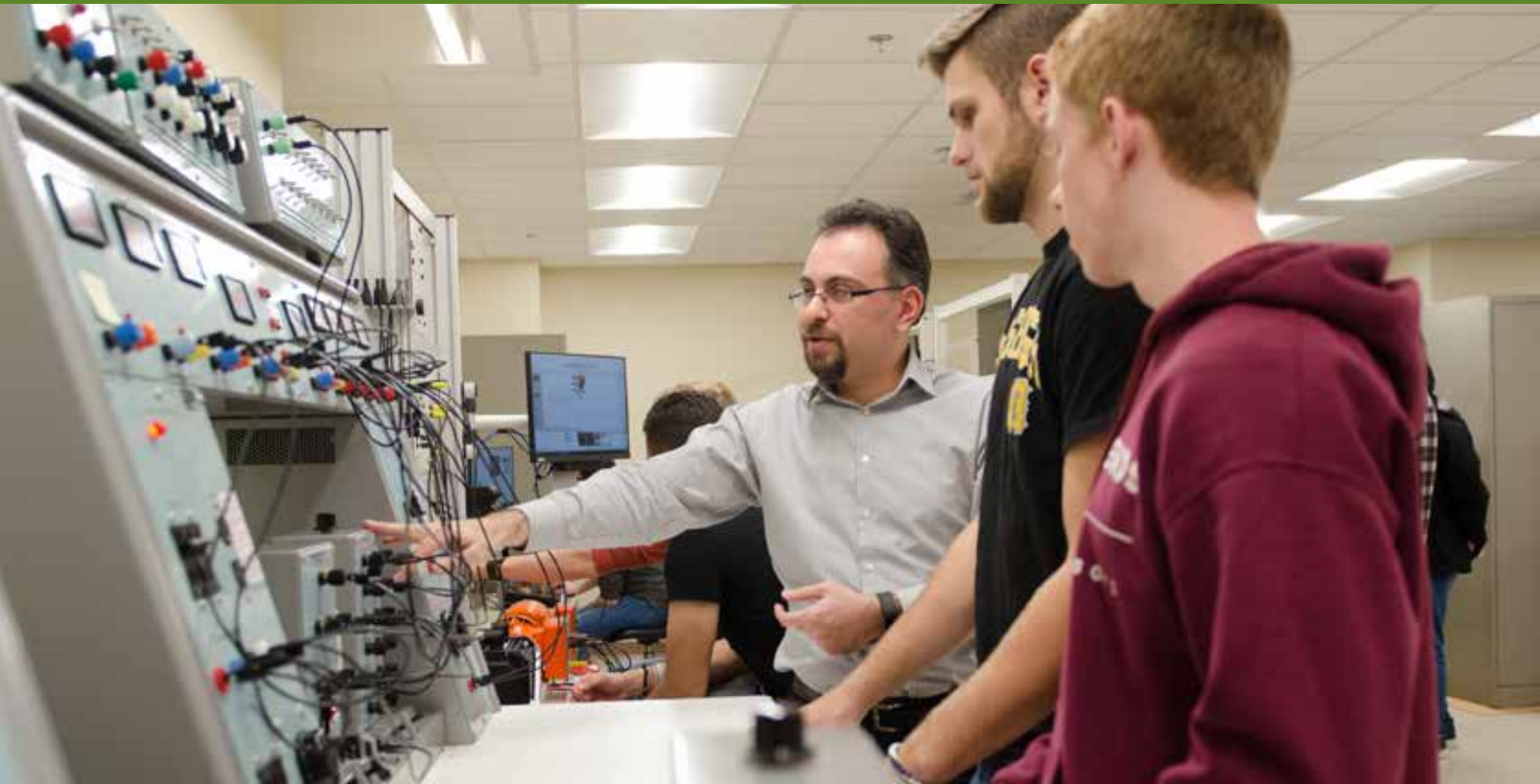
- Melissa Young (1996)

"My time at the Playhouse included love, laughter, and tears. Dreams fulfilled and growing up. If those walls could talk... We knew every nook and cranny, we knew the ghost stories, and the pranks played by seniors yearly. It was our bubble, where we learned our craft and found safety."

-Jill Hoffman (1993)

LAB REPORT

Upgrades to power, chemistry and physics laboratories enhance natural sciences and engineering programs



When Justin Ross entered Point Park's engineering technology program as a first-year student, he appreciated the University's quality faculty and curriculum, and flexible courses that enabled him to balance the demands of a full-time job. The outdated electrical power lab in Academic Hall was not a selling point, however.

That changed last fall, when the University unveiled a bright new power lab with upgraded equipment, thanks to a generous donation from Justin's parents, Kathy and Joel Ross, who is president and CEO of Universal Electric Corporation (UEC) in nearby Canonsburg, Pa. "It's a very positive change and reflects professionalism, especially in light of the fact that the University's focus on science and engineering has been growing," says

Justin, now in his senior year. "I wish I could start all over again in this new lab!"

The University has also renovated its chemistry and physics labs to enhance the overall learning experience for students. "We are proud to say that we now have modern, updated lab facilities to match the quality of our programs," says Gregg Johnson, head of the Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology (NSET) department. Point Park now offers bachelor of science programs in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering, both of which have been designed in full compliance with the criteria of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (www.abet.org).

Power lab boost

Components of the expanded power lab include new lighting, reconfigurable workspaces, new power electronics and motor driver equipment, and, thanks to the Ross donations, a new micro-grid simulator and renewable energy (solar cell) simulator. According to faculty member Yaser Roshan, the lab enables students to conduct a broad range of experiments and supports courses in electric machines (motors, generators and transformers) as well as power electronics, systems control and renewable energy. The University is also adding a wind turbine simulator and is planning to install solar panels to further expand coursework and research in the growing area of renewable energy, says Roshan.

"Renewable energy and sustainability is the future, so this is very important work for students," says Joel Ross. UEC, a 90-year-old company founded by his grandfather, specializes in electrical power distribution equipment and has revolutionized power distribution in data centers, industrial manufacturing facilities and retail stores in the United States and abroad.

"We wanted to help because we could see a real need for this new equipment," says Joel, whose daughter Melodee Holsinger-Bridges (COPA '02) is a graduate of the Conservatory of Performing Arts and founder of children's entertainment company Melstar Entertainment in Los Angeles. "We are happy to support the University, which has provided a great education



for two of our children,” he says, adding that UEC has also hired graduates of Point Park.

Chemistry lab expands

The chemistry and physics labs in Academic Hall have also been renovated and improved. The formerly outdated chemistry lab has been expanded with new workspaces and equipment, new hoods and better lighting. As a result, both safety and student collaboration have been enhanced, says Johnson. No longer are students found crowding around an experiment due to lack of adequate space.

According to Instructor Kristy Long, who often starts her day in the chemistry lab before classes begin, the new lab is so appealing that many students choose to spend time there

outside of normal class times. “It’s now a much more pleasant environment for work and study,” she says.

Innovation in physics

Astrobiologist and physics professor Brendan Mullan aimed to reinvigorate physics education in his design of the new physics lab. After benchmarking leader institutions, and incorporating recommendations from the American Association of Physics Teachers and initiatives like Project Scale-Up, “I tried to create a lab experience for our students that contains the best of modern pedagogy within our budgetary and space constraints,” says Mullan. “I want students to be able to engage in inquiry and have meaningful, authentic learning experiences. The new lab has been designed to be an incubator for that kind of learning.” The space can be reconfigured so that the instructor can choose to

lead from the center or the traditional position up front. The center is advantageous because of the proximity to AV equipment and learning software, and having equal access to all students at once, says Mullan.

“Our goal was to take undergraduate physics education and turn it into a collaborative, project-based learning experience,” he says. “Placing students in small groups enables them to ‘scale up’ their learning and be more active and collaborative in the classroom. Instead of having the curricular experience build up to lab, I want to have the lab lead the curriculum,” says Mullan. “This is a new way of doing things, at least in terms of the physical sciences, and fits strongly with Point Park’s mission.”

Growing for the future

Joel Ross praises the improvements to all three science and engineering labs. When the family toured campus for the first time, “The labs were not a highlight,” he says. “But all that has changed now. If I were walking into these labs [with a prospective student] today, I’d say, wow, you can learn as much right here as you would at some of the educational institutions that are well known for science and engineering.” Justin Ross will graduate soon and will enjoy the new power lab only for the remainder of his senior year, says his father. “However, people plant trees that they’ll never sit under. It’s a wonderful thing to plant a tree and know that in the future, many others will be able to sit under it and enjoy the shade. That’s the kind of thinking that has inspired our gift!”

Photos by Christopher Rolinson.

CENTERED ON MENTAL HEALTH



New doctorate in psychology program anchors newly expanded campus counseling center

At universities nationwide, counselors have reported seeing an increase in mental health issues among college students.

Today's college students may need professional support for everything from minor transition adjustment to anxiety, depression and even more serious psychiatric issues, and Point Park University is no exception, says Matthew Allen, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and director of the new Psy.D. in clinical-community psychology program. Allen recently led an effort to expand Point Park's existing University Counseling

Services with the addition of 12 new counselors, all of whom are doctoral students in the University's new Psy.D. program. These doctoral trainees, some of whom hold a master's degree and bring years of professional experience to their work with student clients, are supervised by licensed clinical psychologists, says Allen. As part of the expansion, University Counseling Services has been relocated from its previous space in the Student Center to a larger suite of equipped therapy rooms and conference space on the fifth floor of Lawrence Hall (rooms 508-508-J). The new location enables students to feel more comfortable in reaching out for confidential support.

Safe space

During the fall 2017 semester, the first months in the new location with a larger staff, the number of students who sought support at University Counseling Services has dramatically increased. "In the first month alone, we had about 150 walk-in clients," says Allen. "We believe that is not only because we are offering expanded services, but also because of the enhanced privacy of the new location."

According to Jill Thomas, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist who is an associate professor of psychology and director of clinical training for the Psy.D. in clinical-community psychology program, "It's very important when providing these kinds of services that we are able to offer a private area where students feel safe and comfortable."

Help is geared to each individual's needs and may include a single counseling session, a series of sessions, group counseling, or referral to appropriate professionals. It is free to all full and part-time students, whether they live on campus or commute. Services are confidential and are governed by the Ethical Code of Conduct for Psychologists licensed in Pennsylvania and the American Psychological Association.

In addition, "the technology we have here is state-of-the-art," says Thomas. "As part of their training, our doctoral student counselors are observed in their work with student clients. There are cameras and microphones in all of the therapy rooms that enable us, as supervisors, to review their work. This observation ensures that student clients are receiving the highest levels of care."

The doctoral students also staff the center during regular office hours. "They answer the phone, schedule appointments, and talk to walk-in students who might be in crisis," according to Thomas, who previously had a private practice in which she provided individual and couples therapy from a humanistic framework. She also worked as a clinical psychologist providing outpatient services at a VA community-based clinic and VA home-based psychological care in Tampa, Fla. and served at SUNY Upstate Medical University as assistant director of internship training, assistant professor and co-director of student counseling.

New Psy.D. attracts leaders

Point Park's new Psy.D. program attracted many more applicants than the available 12 spaces in the initial cohort that began in fall 2017, according to Allen, who previously worked in the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at SUNY Upstate Medical University, and was the lead psychologist for Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR in Pittsburgh.

It is one of only a few doctoral-level programs in the nation to teach humanistic psychology, which seeks to better understand and explain human experience and behavior through empathic understanding and appreciation of diverse ways of living in the world. Unlike many other clinical psychology doctorate programs, the Psy.D. program emphasizes evidence-based community research and applications. Students will graduate prepared to manage established clinical and community programs — or start their own.

In Point Park's Psy.D. program, students are taught to understand human suffering in its larger social and cultural context, with particular attention to social justice and ethical implications of clinical theory and treatment. Psychology is understood within a framework that serves to preserve the dignity of the persons served.

Improved emotional well-being, for college students as well as members of the broader community, is the overarching vision for both University Counseling Services and the new Psy.D. program. The next step is the appointment of a new Ph.D.-level licensed clinical psychologist as director of Counseling Services, expected in early 2018 according to Allen.

He describes the expanded Counseling Services and partnership with new Psy.D. program as "A win-win. This collaboration benefits Point Park's student population as well as our new doctoral students, who have the opportunity to gain experience while serving student clients." ♦

ALUMNI CONNECTION



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Mar 15** (Washington, D.C.) Evening with President Hennigan
- Mar 22** (Cranberry, Pa.) Business Alumni Meet & Greet with Dean Tanzilli
- Apr 10** (Pittsburgh) Senior & Alumni Networking Reception
- Apr 19** (Cleveland, OH) All-Alumni Reception
- May 7** (New York City) Alumni Reception with President Hennigan & Trustee Ryan Stana
- May 9** (Pittsburgh) All-Alumni Happy Hour
- May 12** (PNC Park) Alumni Baseball Outing, Pirates vs. Giants
- June 16** (Pittsburgh) Alumni Outing, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Visit PointPark.edu/alumni for more information.

Dear alumni and friends,

In the blink of an eye, the winter holidays have come and gone, but what remains for me is a profound sense of gratitude.

I am grateful for you, our alumni and friends, who gave their time and talent to our students and the University last year, and for your gifts to the annual fund that help with essentials such as financial aid and key academic needs. Gifts of any amount have an immediate and indelible impact, and I thank you for your ongoing support.

This is a transformative time at Point Park as we create innovative classroom and experiential learning opportunities, partner with community members to take full advantage of our unique Downtown campus, and expand our degree offerings to meet market demand. And, of course, the highly anticipated opening of the new Pittsburgh Playhouse will usher in a state-of-the-art interdisciplinary learning and performance laboratory for our students and a significant cultural asset for western Pennsylvania.

What I am most looking forward to this year is introducing our next stage in alumni engagement. Our team is identifying and implementing new ways to positively impact your lives as much as you positively impact the lives of our students. We want to connect with you in myriad ways: affinity groups you were involved in, including student

organizations; career development and professional education; at value-added events featuring dynamic guest speakers; through networking with current students and each other; and via better use of electronic communications and social media platforms.

Your Point Park experience extends well beyond graduation. We are committed to deepening the lifelong relationship of our alumni with the University through proactive, two-way engagement.

We want to hear from you. What can we do to deepen your relationship with Point Park? What form of outreach do you prefer? What connections can we facilitate among you and other alumni, current students and faculty members? How can we help you? Please take a moment to share your thoughts with me at: snavoney@pointpark.edu or 412-392-4205. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing all our alumni and friends a healthy and happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Navoney

Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations
412-392-4205 | snavoney@pointpark.edu

CLASS NOTES

1960s

John E. Hess (A&S 1964) was the first person to receive the Alumni Achievement Award from the Point Park Junior College Alumni Association in January 1964, recognizing him "for an outstanding contribution to the highest ideals of school service." In 2017, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the International Conference of Police Chaplains, his second international award. Hess, who was born and raised in Wilkinsburg, Pa. writes, "I had the honor of serving as a chaplain in New York City after 9-11 for eight days, and in New Orleans, after Hurricane Katrina, for 18 days. God has blessed me with a rich ministry, which got its higher education start at Point Park Junior College. I was president of the student body while at Point Park, and had the music written and then put the words to the first school song that was introduced at my graduation. I have always mentioned Point Park as my higher education starting place when I have had the opportunity. There is no question I got a good start there, thank you. Have a positive day, take care, and God bless. Yours in God's service."

1970s

Dennis Darak (COM 1973) was inducted into the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame in September 2017. A former member of Point Park's golf team, Darak served as the head golf pro at (what is now) Beaver Lakes Country Club for more than 40 years. He served the Tri State Professional Golfers Association for more than two decades and displayed his commitment to helping youth learn the sport of golf by serving as an original member of the Tri State PGA teaching staff for the Junior Golf Academy. He also conducted junior golf programs during his tenure at

Beaver Lakes. Darak was also the golf coach at the Community College of Beaver County and was previously inducted into the Pennsylvania Independent Hall of Fame.

1980s

Jim Caskowski (COM 1980), writes, "As a North Carolina beekeeper, I've been working with the Henderson County research center to study the worldwide declining population of honey bees, which has resulted in a heavy reduction of fruit and vegetable production." Caskowski, who is also a talented wood-working artist, earned his degree in journalism and communications at Point Park.

1990s

Chris Woodley (COM 1999) writes, "I began my new job as communications manager for the University of South Carolina College of Social Work on Oct. 16, 2017." Woodley earned a degree in journalism and communications at Point Park.

Heidi Swartz Casson (COPA 1994) is finishing her third year as the production manager for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and is in her fourteenth year with the organization. She earned her degree in theatre at Point Park.

2000s

Ryan Stana (COPA '02), a University trustee and the founder of RWS Entertainment Group in New York, discussed the dramatic growth of his entertainment management business, from a small apartment to an Emmy-winning brand, in a Q&A in Crain's Business. Read the article at: bit.ly/2DkWWan.

David Flora (COM '08) writes, "I recently began working as senior producer/editor for the Detroit Pistons." Flora earned his degree in broadcasting at Point Park.

James Manley (BUS '05) has joined Benefix, a tech startup in Lancaster, Pa., as vice president of products. He previously held a position at Comcast in Philadelphia. Manley earned his M.B.A. at Point Park.

Becki Dennis (COPA '06) writes, "2017 was a great year – I've had roles in eight TV shows, including: *Fresh Off the Boat*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, *Jane the Virgin*, *Shameless*, *Life in Pieces*, *Goliath*, *Unsolved*, and *I'm Sorry*. I look forward to what 2018 has in store." Dennis earned her degree in musical theatre at Point Park.

IN MEMORIAM

Alan R. Forney (A&S 1972) died on Oct. 6, 2017 after a brief illness. According to his obituary in the Altoona Mirror, he "was a 1965 graduate of Fort Hill High School in Cumberland, Md., and Point Park College in Pittsburgh. He received a master's degree from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, where he also served as assistant track coach. Alan was a U.S. Army combat veteran, having served from 1966-68 as a member of the 218th Military Police Company stationed in Nha Trang and Tuy Hoa, Vietnam. He was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and worked many years in sales in the grocery and food service brokerage industry." He is missed by his friends and fellow alums, including **Daniel Pie**

2010s



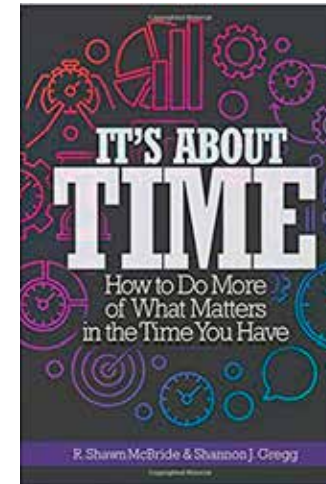
Anthony Pignetti (COM '08) has been promoted to executive director of business development for the minor league baseball team the Fightin Phils in Reading, Pa. The new title expands a leadership role for Pignetti. The 2018 season will be his ninth season with the Fightin Phils, a A.A. affiliate

of the Philadelphia Phillies. A native of Marlboro, New York, Pignetti earned his degree in broadcasting at Point Park. He started with the Fightin Phils in 2010 as an intern.

Robert Gregg (COM '10) writes, "I know that things don't always go as planned, and maybe that is okay. I wasn't always a fan of

the show *The Middle*, but now I am because I believe it is about people coming as they are. [That is also] what members of my church, Crossroads United Methodist Church, are encouraged to do. Life isn't always easy. [*The Middle*] represented to the world a blue-collar family. After I graduated from Point Park in 2010, I was hired to do good, honest work as a ramp agent at the Pittsburgh International Airport. I have been there ever since. I spend most of my time working in the bag room with my friend Jay Abrams, who has been a supporter and confidant. One day a week, I also work on the ramp with [other friends who] really care about the passengers and truly treat each bag as if it was their own. It is wonderful that we support each other at work, but also support each other outside of the airport. [Last February] my friends David Banze, Jacque Wenner and I heard that our coworker Christopher Nardizzi was performing in a show called *Fractured Fairy Tales*. We

went as a group to support him. It reminded me of the positive times I have had, in the past, supporting the arts, and it gave me a chance to share some of those memories with my friends. Point Park definitely helped to strengthen my respect for the arts. [Not just] because I was a member of the chorus, and participated in karaoke nights, but also because I took art appreciation classes. I [also believe] I have become a better orator because of a speech class that I took at Point Park. [In closing], I don't know what my purpose is, but I know that my supporters will be along for the ride."



Shannon Gregg (BUS '14) co-authored the new book, *It's About Time*, published in October 2017 and available on Amazon. In the book, Gregg and co-author R. Shawn McBride lead readers on a new path to effective time management and productivity with a holistic approach to achieving balance in work and life. According to the book's description, "the authors are busy professionals who have taken control of their time. Follow their lead, and you will too, with a plan that includes: How to begin with a dream; when to let go and delegate; why you need to say no; and how to set up methods for productivity." *It's About Time* provides tools and ideas to make better use of the 24 hours in every day. Gregg is currently a doctoral student in the new Ph.D. in community



CONBOY IN HALL OF FAME

Jerry Conboy, Point Park men's basketball coach from 1969-89, was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 28, 2017 in a ceremony in Williamsport, Pa. For Conboy, who won 305 games in 20 seasons for the Pioneers, it was the fifth time he was inducted into a hall of fame, alongside past inductions to the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, Point Park's Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame, the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Hall of Fame and the South Hills Catholic (Seton-La Salle) Hall of Fame. Conboy was joined at the induction ceremony by his wife Patricia and children **Timothy Conboy**, Esq., **Colleen Conboy** (A&S 1985), **Kathleen Conboy** (BUS 1987) and **Mark Conboy** (BUS 1986) and their families.


engagement program at Point Park.

Sonny Raso (A&S '16) has been elected to a four-year-term as school board director for the Keystone Oaks School District in Mt. Lebanon, Pa. Raso, whose term will run from 2018-22, earned his degree in political science at Point Park.

Colten Gill (BUS '17) recently graduated from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, as an Honor Graduate, to become an Intelligence Analyst in the Army National Guard, where he will be serving his community part-time in addition to full-time work. Gill earned a degree in sports, arts and entertainment management at the Rowland School of Business.

Shannon (Hunter) Shields (COM '17) writes, "Thanks to the communication technology MA program at Point Park, I was hired by UPMC in 2015 to work on their social media team. This year, after completing my master's degree, I was promoted to Manager of Social Media. Thank you, Point Park, for helping me to reach my career goals!"

Know someone who can benefit from a Point Park education?
PointPark.edu/ReferAStudent



spotlight
ON

“

It's part of your commitment to society as a whole. You have the option to choose what organization or institution will receive your attention or funds.”

ED MEENA

History Professor and Philanthropist,
Point Park University

INVESTING IN STUDENTS

Ed chooses to invest in the Point Park University Annual Fund on a regular basis to support student programs because students today, he says, "deal with a lot more issues than when I went to school. ... If it helps a little bit or it helps somebody, that's all worth it."

You, too, can have an immediate impact on current student success with a gift to the **Annual Fund**.

POINT PARK
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ALUMS CREATE CAVE THEATRE COMPANY

Conservatory of Performing Arts alumni **Alex Etling** (COPA '11), **Kiley Caughey** (COPA '10), **Cassandra Wood-Triplett** (COPA '12), and **James Masciovecchio** (COPA '11) joined Josh Wood-Triplett to establish the Cave Theatre Company in 2015 in New York City. Etling writes, "in the past two and a half years, we've produced five full-length productions including one world premiere, 17 monthly original one-acts, many readings and numerous other projects. We also founded an outreach program that partners with local schools in the NYC area to bring theatre classes to after-school programs. It's been a pretty fantastic (and exhausting!) two and a half years." The company recently won a grant in the WeWork Creator Awards program. According to Etling, "We are the lucky winners of the Incubate Award, an \$18,000 creative grant. We're going to use this to bring theatre to new audiences and expand our outreach program to more students in need. We can't wait. We're incredibly grateful to Point Park and the experiences and knowledge that we gained there. We thought it might be fun to let other Point Park alumni know what we were up to, and how grateful to the Conservatory we are for our training and education!"



Louis Spanos (BUS '17) has joined WordWrite Communications LLC as account coordinator. He manages media relations and social media and serves as the company's internship

supervisor, including outreach to local universities to find and nurture new talent. WordWrite Communications is ranked first or second among Pennsylvania-based public relations firms across multiple categories in the 2017 O'Dwyer's national PR agency rankings. A Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management graduate, Spanos was involved with Point Park's Campus Activities Board and served as vice president of programming. Spanos had previous experience in public relations and social media as an apprentice at MARC USA and as a digital marketing intern at Blender, Inc. He also volunteered with Doors Open Pittsburgh, assisting with social media strategy for their inaugural event.

Lorenzo Boone (COPA '16) was selected to receive the prestigious Pittsburgh Film-makers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts Flight School Fellowship. He earned his M.F.A. in screenwriting/playwriting at Point Park in 2016.

**DROP US
A NOTE!**

Visit PointPark.edu/Classnote to share your news.

SCHOOL'S IN

Connor John Gillooly (COPA '16) says he's "feeling stone-cold crazy" to make his Broadway debut in the lead role of Dewey (alternate) in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *School of Rock – The Musical* at the Winter Garden Theater in New York City. Based on the hit movie, the musical follows Dewey Finn, a wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping mind-blowing rock band. The story follows Dewey's attempts to lead students to the Battle of the Bands without their parents and the school's headmistress finding out. Gillooly earned his degree in theatre at Point Park in 2016. Playbill.com recently ranked Point Park No. 8 in the "Big 10: The 10 Most Represented Colleges on Broadway in the 2017-2018 season," ahead of schools such as the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Yale University and Florida State University. *Photo by Santiago Filipe.* ❖



GREEN AND GOLDEN

POINT PARK MEN'S BASKETBALL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF TRADITION

By Kevin Taylor



Point Park's basketball championship hardware throughout the years displayed on the second floor of the Student Center. Depicted are trophies for the 2006-07 AMC championship (left), the 1996-97 NAIA Final Four (back, center), the 2000-01 NAIA Sweet 16 (front, center) and the 1982-83 NAIA District 18 championship (right).



Posing with the 1978-79 NAIA District 18 championship trophy are (L to R): Melvin Paul, head coach Jerry Conboy, assistant coach Larry Anderson and Sonny Lewis.

Point Park men's basketball is putting the "gold" in its school colors of green and gold. Pioneers men's basketball reached its golden anniversary in 2017 – marking 50 years in the NAIA and as a four-year program.

In the early days, after Point Park was founded in 1960, the Pioneers competed as a junior-college men's basketball program. They even won the junior college state championship in 1963. The 1967-68 season was Point Park's first as a four-year program. The Pioneers joined the NAIA that year and have been proud members ever since.

During the past 50 years, Point Park has enjoyed a strong history of men's basket-

ball. There have been many star players who have suited up for the Pioneers. And just a few head coaches. This basketball season, former players and coaches gathered for a 50th anniversary celebration of Pioneers men's basketball during Point Park's home game versus Ohio Christian on Feb. 3.

Remarkable history

There was much to celebrate at the anniversary game, indeed. Point Park has made a name for itself with its men's basketball tradition, one that stands up to any in the region. "When you talk about Pittsburgh basketball and in the surrounding area, you have to include Point Park," said Pioneers all-time leading scorer

Bobby Franklin (1977). "Point Park is a mainstay in that conversation because of the players and coaches who have come through the program. "The history that has been laid is remarkable," said Franklin, who scored a school-record 2,020 points from 1973-77 as an NAIA All-American guard and one of the top players in the area back then. "Nobody knew the name Point Park. They would call us Park Point College. It was a tremendous accomplishment for a school of our size to make a name for ourselves with basketball."

During Point Park's 50 years competing in the NAIA, there have been just five head coaches. Jerry Conboy and Bob Rager (1974) made up most of that time frame,

a combined 47 seasons, from 1969-2017. Mel Cratsley and Carl Rizzo coached the first two seasons in the NAIA in 1967-68 and 1968-69, respectively. Gabe Bubon ('06), Point Park's record holder for points in a single game, took over when Rager retired last year.

Conboy led the Pioneers to 305 wins in 20 seasons as head coach from 1969-89. He took Point Park to two NAIA national tournaments, which was accomplished by winning two championships in the very rugged NAIA District 18. Conboy's career was recently honored with induction into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in October 2017, his fifth hall of fame and the biggest one yet.

Tough competitors

"NAIA District 18 was tough with all the big state schools like IUP and Edinboro," said Conboy. "It was very tough to make the playoffs year after year. What we were able to accomplish was very big for our school and brought a lot of attention." "District 18 was a monster," said Franklin. "It was a fight for survival. Especially for a school our size."

The Pioneers captured NAIA District 18 championships in 1978-79 and 1982-83 under Conboy. Those years marked the first trips to the NAIA national tournament for the Pioneers to bring national attention to the school and program. The Pioneers were a top team in the area in the 1970s

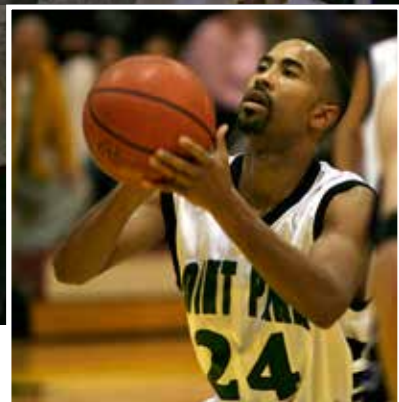
and 1980s under Conboy. Players such as Sonny Lewis, Melvin Paul and Terry Peavey were a part of that first District 18 title. Joe McMillan, the program's third all-time scorer, led the team to the 1982-83 district championship. "We didn't take a backseat to anybody," said Conboy, referring to Point Park's place in Pittsburgh basketball and in the region. "We played games at the Civic Arena, and we had as much notoriety as the teams at Pitt and Duquesne."

"The players that Point Park attracted to campus were some of the best around," said Franklin. "The 1978-79 team was one of the best collections of talent around here the last 40 years. Coach Conboy was an outstanding coach with his ability to recruit and the strategy he brought to the game."



2006-07 Coach Rager talking to team and (below) 2017-18 Pioneer team photo

2006-07 Chivas Whipple



National competitions

Point Park has been to the NAIA national tournament a total of five times in its first 50 years in the NAIA. That's a great achievement for a school that had just two buildings in the days of Conboy and Franklin and that has never had a true home gym for games on campus.

Point Park's best NAIA national finish came in 1996-97, a year the Pioneers went all the way to the NAIA Final Four. The Pioneers were champions of the Keystone-Empire Collegiate Conference and made their run with NAIA All-Americans Damon Wade and DeVaughn Halsel under the direction of coach Bob Rager.

Rager coached the Pioneers for 27 seasons, from 1989-2017, and amassed a school-record 381 victories. As a player

for the Pioneers from 1970-74, he was Point Park's first NAIA All-American. Rager guided the Pioneers to three NAIA national appearances as coach, with the others coming in 2000-01 and 2006-07.

The Pioneers reached the NAIA Division II Sweet 16 in 2000-01. They went back to nationals in 2006-07 as the No. 3 team in the country and finished with a final record of 29-2 overall, the best record in team history.

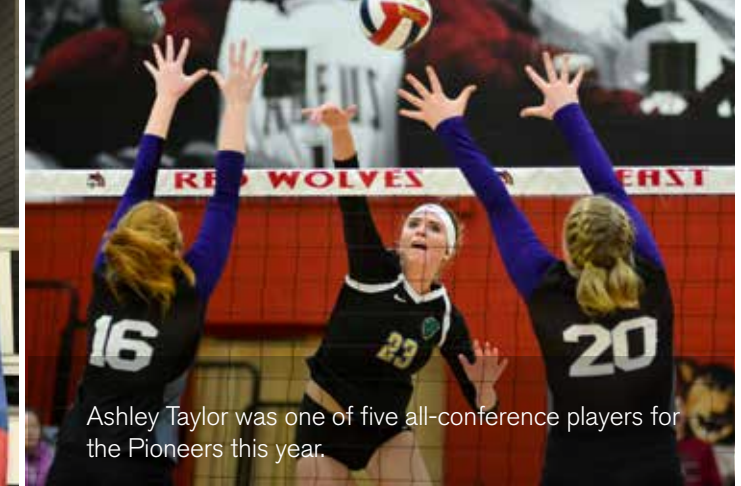
True pioneers

The 2006-07 team had two players who have gone on to be inducted into Point Park's Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame – Gavin Prosser and Chivas Whipple. Both received NAIA All-American attention with Whipple the school's only three-time All-American.

It all goes back to the 1960s, when the Pioneers' program got its start. Frank Gustine was the coach who led the Pioneers to their junior college state title with players such as Ty Anderson and Paul Temcio starring the squad. That ushered in the Pioneers as four-year program by the late 1960s.

The early days featured Ed Josefoski (1971) as the program's first player to reach 1,000 career points and rebounds from 1967-71. Jim Ney (1975) was another star player from the early days teaming up with the likes of Rager and Franklin. Through all the years and all the names, there's one thing that is held in common – they've made up the golden history of Pioneers men's basketball.

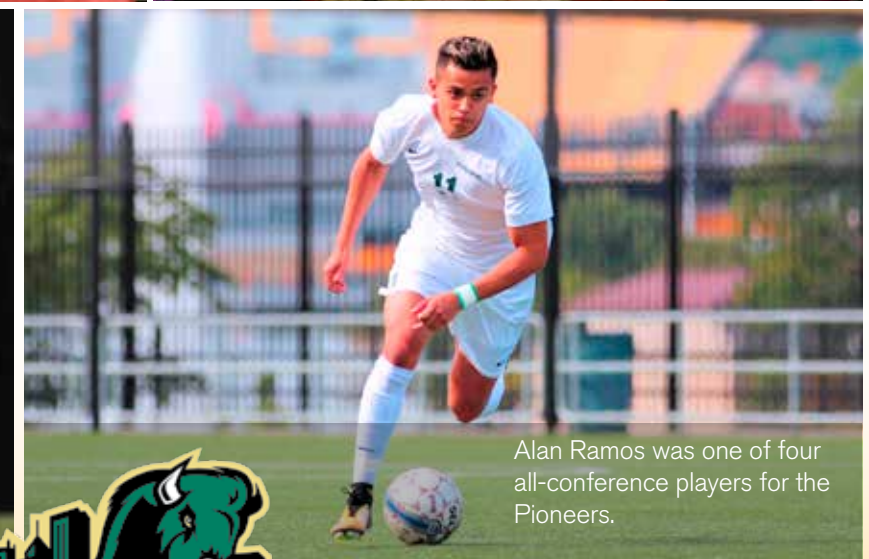
Kevin Taylor is director of athletic communications at Point Park. ❖



Ashley Taylor was one of five all-conference players for the Pioneers this year.



Gabby Widman was one of two all-conference players for the Pioneers.



Alan Ramos was one of four all-conference players for the Pioneers.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

► CROSS COUNTRY

The Pioneers won the River States Conference championship in women's cross country and finished runner-up in men's cross country. Both teams earned qualification to the NAIA National Championship meet with their RSC placements. It was the second time the Pioneers made nationals as a team, which included 2015 as well. Anna Shields became Point Park's first NAIA All-American in cross country due to placing 12th at the national meet. The women's team placed 26th in the country, and the men were 32nd, both the highest-ever finish for the respective teams.

► WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Pioneers had another good season, placing third of 10 teams in tough River States Conference

standings. Point Park made the playoffs for the seventh year in a row with a record of 8-8-1 overall, 5-3-1 RSC with wins over all the top teams in the conference. Izzy Hunter and Gabby Widman made all-conference honors, and the team has many returners coming back for sixth-year coach Maggie Kuhn.

► VOLLEYBALL

Point Park was 21-14 overall, 10-6 River States Conference to place among the top teams in the RSC and second place in its division. It was the ninth time in the last 11 years the Pioneers won at least 20 matches. Point Park led the RSC with five all-conference selections,

and all of them were underclassmen. Ashley Taylor and Julia Menosky made the first team, while Erica Gumz, Morgan Dangelo and Meg Reineke made the second team.

► MEN'S SOCCER

The Pioneers had a strong season in a very tough River States Conference finishing with a record of 11-6 overall and 6-3 RSC. It was another playoff appearance for the Pioneers, who tied for the second-most victories in a single season in team history. The 11 wins were just one shy of the team record of 12 set in 1998 and 2013. Four players earned all-conference accolades, including senior Alan Ramos and sophomore Roberto Whitley on the first team.

THE POINT

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