

THE POINT

A NEW STAGE

Curtain rises on the new
Pittsburgh Playhouse

A NEW SCHOOL

Announcing the School
of Education at Point Park





Dear alumni and friends,

As our fall semester winds down, and we prepare for the new year, it's a time to give thanks and to reflect on the many accomplishments of 2018. I believe it has been a defining one for our University. We have reached major milestones, and have set strategic aspirational goals for our students, faculty and staff in the years to come.

One of the most visible, and exciting, milestones was the fall opening of the much-anticipated new Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University. The new Playhouse is an incredible, one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary center for all facets of entertainment management, including our nationally-ranked Conservatory of Performing Arts. In October, we gathered together with alumni, friends and neighbors, as well as civic and community leaders, to celebrate and enjoy the inaugural performance in this extraordinary new cultural center and learning laboratory.

As I have often said, we believe the new Playhouse will become the heartbeat of Downtown Pittsburgh. You can take a closer look inside the new Playhouse, and share in the excitement of the Oct. 13 opening gala, in this issue of The Point. We hope you'll plan to visit, and enjoy a performance, lecture or other event, in the years to come.

This year also marked another academic milestone for the University. At the beginning of the fall semester, we proudly announced the establishment of the new School of Education at Point Park. As I remarked at the announcement

celebration on Sept. 5, the new school reflects the status and reputation of our exceptional programs in education not only regionally and nationally but also within our own campus community. The School of Education will meet current needs in education for undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees, offered in flexible formats, from on-campus study to hybrid and online programs.

At Point Park, we know we have much to be grateful for. I want to thank each and every member of our University family for your ongoing support as we enter into the next exciting chapter of our history.

Our vision is nothing less than to be one of the most dynamic, private, urban universities in America, with an intense focus on student success through distinctive, innovative and experiential learning.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan
President



CONTENTS

2 News and Views

8 Open for Business

Campus welcomes Point Park coffeehouse and new space for The Globe and WPPJ.

12 School in Session

Point Park establishes a new School of Education to reflect current needs in education for undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees.

16 Center Stage

Curtain rises on the new Pittsburgh Playhouse in Downtown Pittsburgh.

20 By the Numbers

From total square footage of new construction to number of tons of American-made steel, see what went into building the new Playhouse.

22 Gala Opening

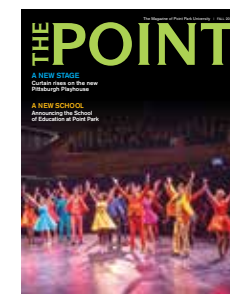
Playhouse opens with a black-tie gala featuring Academy and Tony Award-winning alumni and dazzling entertainment.

26 Alumni Connection

27 Class Notes

30 Baseball Pioneers

Point Park's baseball teams of the 1970s remain wildly dedicated to the game and to each other.



ON THE COVER:

A view of the first performance in the PNC Theater in the new Pittsburgh Playhouse. Photo by John Altdorfer.

The Point is published by the Department of Marketing and Communications, Point Park University, 201 Wood Street Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of published information. Please visit our web site at www.pointpark.edu for current information regarding University programs, departments, alumni activities and events.

Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Initiatives
This policy affirms Point Park University's commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and the pursuit of diversity. Point Park University does not discriminate on the basis of: 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. The interim Title IX coordinator, Lisa Stefanko, may be reached at lstefanko@pointpark.edu, 412-392-4727 or 100 Wood Street, Frontier Hall, Room 709, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

TALK TO US!

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

Managing Editor
Marketing and Communications
Point Park University
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-392-6108 Fax: 412-392-6185
Email: thepoint@pointpark.edu

President
Paul Hennigan, Ed.D.

Vice President of
External Affairs
Mariann Geyer

Managing Editor
Cheryl Valyo

Managing Director,
Communications and
Client Services

Nancy Commella

Managing Director,
University Marketing and
Public Relations

Lou Corsaro

Graphic Designer
Judy Sporka

Manager of Printing
Services
Don Pastorius

Director of Online
Communications
Keith Kuzmovich

Web Services Manager
Stephen Shanahan

Writers
Amanda Dabbs
Gina Puppo
Kevin Taylor
Barbara Vilanova

Photographers
John Altdorfer
Randall Coleman
Katie Ging
Nick Koehler
Christopher Rolinson

Professional Advancement

Britney G. Brinkman, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and placement coordinator for the Psy.D. in clinical-community psychology program, was honored by the American Psychological Association with the prestigious Citizen Psychologist Presidential Citation. Brinkman received the award in recognition for her work with the non-profit organizations Gwen's Girls and the Black Girls Equity Alliance, which is overseen by the Gwendolyn J. Elliott Institute. "I'm very grateful to the APA for this recognition, which is a personal and professional career highlight for me. But even more importantly, this honor will shine a light on the efforts of these exceptional organizations to empower girls and young women to have productive lives through holistic, gender-specific programs, education and experiences, and to work with providers, communities, and systems about best



STRONGER TOGETHER

Members of the Point Park community responded with horror, grief and a renewed call for tolerance and inclusion in the wake of the Oct. 27 massacre of 11 members of Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Students, some of whom live in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood impacted by the shooting, held an impromptu vigil in Village Park to remember the victims. President Paul Hennigan reached out via email to all students, faculty and staff with a message that reinforced the University's commitment to mutual support and inclusion. He said, "After the horrific events in Squirrel Hill, and as grieving families begin to bury the dead, we are all shocked, outraged, and confused. We may never be able to fully process all that has taken place, but I hope that in the coming days we at Point Park will join together as a community in full support of inclusion and mutual support." Hennigan added, "To be perfectly clear, there is no place for hate at this University. We will never accept views or actions that support oppression and violence, and we will work together to make Pittsburgh a better, stronger, more inclusive community. We celebrate our differences, and we know that these differences make us stronger." Photo taken in Squirrel Hill by photojournalism student Nick Koehler.

practices for supporting and advocating for black girls through policy change," she said. Brinkman is the author of the book *Detection and Prevention of Identity-Based Bullying: Social Justice Perspectives* and is the president of the board of directors of Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

P.K. Weston, Ph.D., professor of composition and literature in the Department of Literary Arts and Social Justice, volunteered last summer at Hekima Place, an orphanage and school for 86 girls of all ages in Kiserian, Kenya. Hekima Place was founded in 2005 by Kate Fletcher, who left her life in Pittsburgh to live and volunteer with AIDS orphans in Kenya. While at Hekima Place, Weston served in a variety of roles from teaching and caretaking to cleaning and playing games with the students. "It's my personal ethos to give back," Weston said.

Chris Lovett, digital product manager/team lead for PNC and part-time marketing instructor for the Rowland School of Business, presented his research titled "Convenience Store Study Group Digital Deep Dive," in the Times Square section of New York City. Lovett, who earned his M.B.A. at Point Park, was among a group of marketing executives representing convenience stores across the country invited to give a three-hour presentation on digital marketing trends.

Tatyana Dumova, Ph.D., professor in the School of Communication, participated in the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Communication Association held October 5-6 at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa. The conference theme, "Intersections of History, Communication and Community," provided a forum to delve into the role of communication today and in the past. Dumova made two presentations and served as panel chair and respondent. She also took part in a roundtable discussion,

"The Challenges of Mobilizing a Self-Study for Middle States Accreditation Review," which examined issues critical for academic units that participate in efforts to obtain or reaffirm accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and the opportunities for faculty involvement.

Mitchel Nickols, Ph.D., a part-time instructor in the M.B.A., Ed.D. in leadership and administration and Ph.D. in community engagement programs, was the keynote speaker at the Pennsylvania Municipal League 2018 Annual Summit in Cranberry Township, Pa. A diversity and sensitivity trainer and consultant for police departments and school districts throughout Western Pennsylvania, Nickols spoke at the summit to Pennsylvania mayors, city managers and council members on the topic of leadership and engagement of the total municipality. Nickols teaches in the Rowland School of Business, School of Education and Department of Community Engagement at Point Park, including such courses as: Ethical Leadership and Sustainable Organizations (M.B.A. program) and Cultivating Ethical Diversity, Research Writing, Dissertation Seminar and chair of Dissertation Committees (Ed.D. program).

Patrick Mulvihill, D.Ed., and 2017 on-site M.B.A. alumnus **Todd Wilson**, P.E., are among the authors of the new book, *Engineering Pittsburgh: A History of Roads, Rails, Canals, Bridges & More*. Sixteen civil engineers and professionals collaborated on this publication, which celebrates the centennial anniversary of the American Society of Civil Engineers Pittsburgh Section. The authors narrate the story of the region's civil engineering triumphs, including the development of bridges, ground transportation systems and airports that linked the city to the world. "The early airfields, pioneering

spirit, and sense of adventure woven within ... Western Pennsylvania, and Pittsburgh specifically, played an integral role during the early days of aviation and powered flight," said Mulvihill, who wrote a chapter on aviation. Wilson authored the chapter on bridges.

Helena Knörr, Ph.D., professor of organizational leadership in the Rowland School of Business, was invited back to Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), a university in Guayaquil, Ecuador, to present on social innovation and entrepreneurship. Knörr spoke to government officials, university governance members and program directors Sept. 13 about the role universities can take in creating opportunities with businesses and government to develop innovation and social entrepreneurship through the Triple Helix model. Additionally, Knörr conducted a workshop Sept. 14 for 30 program directors at ESPOL who lead multidisciplinary projects in social innovation and entrepreneurship. The title of her workshop was "Models and Tools to Promote Excellence in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship."

Darryl E. Jones, Ph.D., CFO, EFO, a part-time instructor in the public administration program, was honored Oct. 5 by Nabhi Christian Ministries of Pittsburgh with their Lifetime Achievement Award. Jones is responsible for the leadership of over 650 uniformed personnel and operations of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. Under his leadership, the Bureau expanded its Free Smoke Detector Program, refurbished its Company Inspector Program and initiated the Risk Watch Safety Program that teaches safety techniques to students grades K-6 as part of their health curriculum. In addition to teaching at Point Park, Jones is an instructor for the National Fire Academy and the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. In 1995,



NEW PLAYHOUSE NEW PASSION NEW POSSIBILITIES

Play an important role in the new Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University! What your gift means:

- Allows students from a variety of majors to explore their craft.
- Helps students turn their passions into a profession.
- Raises the curtain on new possibilities for hands-on learning across the University.

Show your support of the Pittsburgh Playhouse, a national artistic lab for students and professionals. Visit PointPark.edu/Give. Choose your contribution and then select "The New Pittsburgh Playhouse" as the donation account.

POINT PARK
UNIVERSITY

Jones was the first African American to be appointed fire chief for Aliquippa, Pa., and in 2007, he became Pittsburgh's first African-American fire chief.

Jamesena Talbott, D.M., professor in the Rowland School of Business, presented her research on "Cultivating an Interprofessional Collaborative Ecology of Care" Oct. 9 to faculty in the areas of human development, human and organizational

development and clinical psychology at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif. "The presentation was a summary of my dissertation in human development focused on interprofessional collaboration among medical and mental health professionals, nutritional specialists, and complementary-alternative practitioners treating older women living with eating disorders," Talbott explained.



New Pioneer Records Artists

Pop/rock singer, songwriter and pianist **Allissa Logsdon**, in collaboration with Pittsburgh rap and R&B artist **Victor Gariseb**, was selected by Pioneer Records as its latest artist to join the student-run record label. Logsdon is a senior sports, arts and entertainment management major and native of Pittsburgh's Munhall Borough. Gariseb is a freshman acting major from the town of Swakopmund in Namibia, Africa. The two artists were chosen from among 23 artists and bands who submitted their music. "Winning the Pioneer Star contest comes with so many opportunities that I would not be able to find or afford on my own. It is such a wonderful way to kickstart your music career and set you up for success," Logsdon said. Gariseb, who is most inspired by local musicians and his brother, added: "I just want to learn how to build a stable platform for myself." As a new Pioneer Records artist, Logsdon will receive 300 copies of an extended play (EP) record produced by **Jesse Naus** at Red Caiman Studios. Logsdon and Gariseb will also collaborate on a music video produced by Point Park's cinema production and SAEM students, and will be featured at a CD and video release party at Stage AE hosted by Pioneer Records in the spring. "I am excited about literally everything. I can't wait to record my new songs and hear them come to life. I am also really looking forward to collaborating with Victor on one of my original songs. He is so talented, and I think we will create something really special together," Logsdon said.

Steve Hallock, Ph.D., graduate director in the School of Communication, authored the first volume of a new academic book, published by Peter Lang and titled *A History of the American Civil Rights Movement Through Newspaper Coverage: The Race Agenda, Volume I*. He also wrote his first play, *Lights Out*, produced in 2017 by Pittsburgh Playwrights. His latest novel is titled *Some of Doc's Blues*.

Brent Robbins, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Psychology, is the author of the new book, *The Medicalized Body and Anesthetic Culture: The Cadaver, the Memorial Body, and the Recovery of Lived Experience*. For the past decade, Robbins has studied the way people experience their bodies and emotions. As part of his research, Robbins explored how medical professionals in training come to learn about the body and how it impacts their clinical practices. "I discovered that early on in their training, medical professionals are socialized into a peculiar way of understanding the body, mainly through anatomical dissection of the cadaver. Doctors learn that medical practice shouldn't talk about the anatomical body as if it were a person. As a result, medicine can often objectify and dehumanize patients by thinking of living people as if they are objects like a cadaver," he said. Robbins is focused on how his research can help medicine and psychiatry to be more humane and less dehumanizing in practice. "I'm also interested in finding ways to help people to more appropriately cope with death anxiety so that they are less prone to destructive defense mechanisms — not only in medicine, but across our society and deep in our culture."

New Faculty

Point Park welcomed new full-time faculty members for the 2018-19 academic year. These faculty bring both industry exper-

tise and real-world professional experience into the classes they teach. They are: **Britney Brinkman**, Ph.D., associate professor, psychology; **Dorene Ciletti**, Ph.D., associate professor, business management; **Marion W. Dixon**, Ph.D., assistant professor, sociology; **Linda Hippert**, Ed.D., assistant professor, education; **Kurt Kumler**, Ph.D., assistant professor, psychology; **Kiki Lucas**, visiting teaching artist, dance; **Britton Mauk**, M.F.A., visiting assistant professor, theatre; **David Morrison**, artist in residence, cinema arts; **Jayne Olshanski**, M.B.A., CPA, assistant professor, accounting; **Noel Schermaier**, visiting teaching artist, cinema arts; **Jeffrey J. Seaman**, M.I.S., assistant professor, information technology; **Adam Wachter**, M.A., visiting assistant professor, theatre; and **Rebekah Young**, M.S., lecturer, natural sciences.

Top 10 Again and Again

Point Park has been ranked No. 8 on Playbill.com's list of the Ten Most Represented Colleges on Broadway, ahead of schools such as the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, The Juilliard School and Northwestern University. The Playbill ranking represented the third time in late 2018 that Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts has found itself on a national Top 10 list. In August, OnStage Blog ranked Point Park's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance program at No. 3 in the nation (see page 10). In

Looking for a
flexible, convenient
online program?
Online.PointPark.edu



The Disruptive Norm

Point Park Online hosted The Disruptive Norm conference, which brought together higher education professionals to tackle problems and propose solutions concerning online education at small colleges and universities, on campus Oct. 10-12, 2018. The event's keynote speaker was **Richard Price**, research associate at the Christensen Institute. Presenters also included Point Park Assistant Provost **Jonas Prida**, Ph.D., leader of Point Park's Center for Inclusive Excellence, and **Nelson Chipman**, assistant vice president of Point Park Online, who spoke to participants about online program management and retention. The working groups addressed such topics as: faculty

adoption, cultural adoption and change management, program selection and recruiting, course design and technology tools, and faculty development. According to Chipman, "Our philosophy for the conference is that the best connections and conversations happen among individuals grappling with many of the same issues. Online administrators, coordinators, instructional designers [and others] at smaller colleges across the country often struggle with similar problems in different ways. The goal of the conference is to bring these people together in order to meet new colleagues, address common problems and find common solutions." Photos by Chase Barron.

September, OnStage Blog also put the University's B.F.A. in Musical Theatre at No. 9 in the nation. "Being perennially ranked among the most-represented schools on Broadway is confirmation of our Conservatory's consistent track record in developing successful artists," said President **Paul Hennigan**. "Our program attracts immensely talented young people who learn under a dedicated

faculty of artist educators and national guest artists. The University's new Pittsburgh Playhouse will only serve to increase the opportunities we can provide students." Playbill.com's ranking is based on its own research, which only includes Broadway shows currently open, along with some shows that have announced casting for the 2018-2019 season.



eSports Leader

As chair of the Visit Pittsburgh eSports Task Force, Rowland School of Business Dean **Steve Tanzilli**, J.D., is helping to grow the eSports industry in the region — putting Point Park University at the forefront. According to Tanzilli, the goals of the Pittsburgh eSports Task Force are to increase awareness and understanding of the \$1.5 billion industry of eSports, educate students on the skill sets they need to be successful in the business and host a national eSports event in Pittsburgh during spring 2019. New this semester, Point Park is one of the only universities in the region to offer a class focused on the business side of gaming. In the Business of eSports course, Instructor **Charles Berry**, J.D., owner and attorney of Charles Berry Consulting, teaches students about the marketing, promotions and legal issues specific to the field and will be giving them the opportunity to host an eSports event on campus in November. “eSports is an industry on the cusp of being really impactful. We hear quite a bit that there is a real need in this industry for professionals who have event management and business skills. Students need to know how to represent professional eSports athletes, as well as host eSports events and successfully market and promote them,” Tanzilli explained. Students in class also heard a presentation by **Brian Matvey**, event coordinator for Major League Gaming. Matvey has helped operate and produce more than 60 major eSports events. “Our focus at Point Park is always to provide our students with the innovative, practical hands-on skill sets they need to be employable,” he added. Tanzilli’s plans to expand eSports at Point Park include creating an interdisciplinary certificate and the establishment of an eSports team managed by the Rowland School of Business.

Television Academy Intern

Among thousands of applicants, Rowland School of Business student **Julie Bowser** was one of only 50 students selected for the Television Academy Foundation’s 2018 Internship Program. The program provides paid internships at top Hollywood studios and production companies to college students nationwide. Bowser interned with Verve Talent

& Literary Agency in Los Angeles. The agency “represents many writers and directors in the industry who work behind the scenes in television and film,” she said. “One of my duties is to read scripts submitted from clients and writers who are looking for representation and write coverage on them for the agents. I [also] perform research tasks to find information about potential clients, management companies, production companies, etc.

One of my favorite things to do is to float for assistants. This is where I get to cover their desk and do roll calls for the agents, which allows me to get one-on-one time with the agents, which is usually hard to come by because they are so busy.”

On the Air



2018 graduate and Emmy Award-winner **Josh Croup** is a new anchor/reporter for WDTV in Morgantown, W.V. According to Croup, “As a producer and anchor, I’m responsible for building each newscast and communicating with reporters about their stories for the shows. I’m also responsible for maintaining our digital presence on the weekends. As a reporter, I regularly enterprise story ideas, develop contacts in my counties and report on breaking news when it happens. I’m also the backup evening anchor during the weekdays.” Croup, who won the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award for College/University Talent for his work on camera, was also nominated for a 2018 Mid-Atlantic Emmy for his piece on Point Park’s **Anna Shields’** “Road to Success,” completed during an apprenticeship with the University’s Athletic Communications Department. “The assignment was to get Anna’s story out there in the best way that I could. Anna is Point Park’s first national champion and a track and field athlete. ... I really enjoyed the work that went into it and the final product. It’s an incredible honor just to be nominated now for two Emmy Awards.”



Pennsylvania boasts some 83,000 miles of waterways, more than any other state in the nation except Alaska. But the quality of those waterways is under serious threat including everything from active and abandoned coal mines to acid rain, aging infrastructure, urban development, industrial pollution and even the impacts of seemingly mundane human activities such as lawn care. Pennsylvania’s endangered watersheds are the focus of *Downstream*, a half-hour documentary produced by the School of Communication environmental journalism program, in association with WOED Multimedia, and made possible through a grant from the Heinz Endowments. “Clean water is essential for economic development and healthy communities. Even if you don’t consider yourself an ‘environmentalist,’ water quality affects everyone because the costs associated with cleaning water ultimately trickle down to all of us,” said **Gina Catanzarite**, *Downstream* Emmy Award-winning writer/producer. A part-time instructor in the School of Communication, Catanzarite worked with 2004 cinema arts alumnus **Glenn Syska**, who served as the director of photography and editor, and **Zak Boyle**, a 2015 cinema arts alumnus, who was the 2nd unit photographer and assistant editor on the production. *Downstream* premiered on WOED Oct. 11, 2018. A screening event and panel discussion was held at Point Park’s Center for Media Innovation. *Downstream* will be offered to other public television stations for air. Watch it here: bit.ly/2D3VvFn.

Media Innovators Speaker Series

Point Park’s Media Innovators Speaker Series, a collaboration between the Center for Media Innovation and the new Pittsburgh Playhouse, will present the following speakers in spring, 2019 at the Playhouse on Forbes Ave. in Downtown Pittsburgh. For ticket information, contact the Box Office at 412-392-8000 or visit PittsburghPlayhouse.com:

David Folkenflik

January 15 | PNC Theater, 7 p.m.

Folkenflik is an American reporter based in New York City and serving as media correspondent for National Public Radio. His work primarily appears on the NPR news programs Morning Edition and *All Things Considered*. He also appears regularly on the “Media Circus” segment on *Talk of the Nation*, and is host of *On Point*.

Nathaniel Rich

February 21 | Highmark Theater, 7 p.m.

Rich is a writer-at-large for The New York Times Magazine. He authored *Losing Earth*, an interactive feature, that looks at climate change. Sponsored by Heinz Endowments, as part of the Point Park Environmental Journalism program.

Melissa Block

March 19 | PNC Theater, 7 p.m.

Block is the former host, and current guest host, of *All Things Considered* on NPR. As a special correspondent, Block produces richly reported profiles of figures at the forefront of thought and culture, as well as stories and series on the critical issues of our day. Her reporting spans both domestic and international news.

Don Gonyea

May 9 | Highmark Theater, 7 p.m.

Gonyea is the National Political Correspondent for NPR. Based in Washington, D.C., he travels throughout the United States covering campaigns, elections and the political climate throughout the country. His reports can be heard on all NPR programs and at NPR.org.

OCPD Visit

This fall, members of the Ocean City Police Department traveled more than six hours to meet with students in criminal justice classes, taught by **Edward Strimlan**, M.D., and **Richard Linzer**, J.D., and discuss opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the field with the OCPD department this summer. “This visit would not have happened without the efforts of Dr. Strimlan. Seasonal employment with the Ocean City Police Department as a police officer, public safety aide or communications officer are wonderful opportunities for a trial run in a career. There are not many chances to test out your chosen profession before making a final commitment. These positions offer great pay for summer work in a friendly environment,” Linzer explained. ❖



Open for Business

Campus welcomes Point Perk coffeehouse and



new space for The Globe and WPPJ



The confluence of Wood Street, Boulevard of the Allies and First Avenue are once again bursting with student energy, creativity and engagement.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the University announced the opening of Point Perk, a campus coffeehouse and gathering spot in Village Park, part of its Academic Village. Located at 100 Wood Street, Point Perk offers Starbucks coffee, breakfast options, pizza, sandwiches and other light fare. Open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., the centrally located café has already become a campus gathering spot as well as a destination for the general public. A farmers market was set up outside the new café on several occasions throughout the summer, including move-in week.

Student-produced events

"We're excited to open the doors on this beautiful space," said Dean of Students Keith Paylo. "In addition to being a great place for students to grab coffee and something to eat, Point Perk will feature a moveable stage to allow for live music, comedy and other events." Plans are in the works to partner with the Rowland School of Business and its Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management program to identify, program and book entertainment in the space.

Point Park hosted a naming contest for the new campus coffeehouse, and Point Perk, the name submitted by student Tiffany Walker, was chosen from over 200 submissions. Walker received a Premium Point Park Pioneer Gift Pack and \$100 on flex dollars to spend at Point Perk or other food service locations across campus.

New home for The Globe, WPPJ

In addition to the lights being turned back on at 100 Wood Street, another formerly quiet campus corner will take on a

new focus as Point Park University's student newspaper The Globe and the award-winning student radio station WPPJ move into space formerly occupied by the campus Starbucks at the corner of Wood Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard. Both The Globe and WPPJ will have production and expanded staff space.

"With the opening of Point Perk and all the activity connected to The Globe and WPPJ, we envisioned our Village Park corner of Downtown Pittsburgh experiencing a great little renaissance just in time to welcome back students," said Paylo. ❖



FLYING HIGH

Point Park's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance program has been named by OnStage blog as one of the top five in the country for 2018-2019. Point Park came in at No. 5 on this year's list, just behind The Juilliard School, while being hailed as "hands down the best college in the country that offers both a B.A. and B.F.A. in dance."

The University was ranked higher than some of the nation's other elite dance schools, including Butler University, Indiana University, the California Institute of the Arts, the University of Arizona and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. "It's always exciting to be nationally recognized for our exceptional dance program, especially among such other highly regarded schools," said President Paul Hennigan.

"We look forward to our dance program becoming integrated into the new Pittsburgh Playhouse, so that students can take full advantage of the many cross-disciplinary opportunities it will offer."

OnStage takes months to research the best programs, basing it off cost vs. scholarships, curriculum, performance opportunities, facilities, faculty experience, career support and more. The blog noted that the University's George Rowland White Performance Center is among the best dance facilities in the country. "This recognition is a testament to the quality of instruction, the caliber of our students and faculty, our successful alumni, and of course the overall experience that students have at Point Park. We couldn't be more proud," said Garfield Lemonius, chair of the Department of Dance. Read the full story at OnStage: bit.ly/2LnvGLe.





SCHOOL IN SESSION

Point Park establishes School of Education

“The field of teacher education is one that is multifaceted... The need for expanding programs and recruitment to meet the state and national demands is without question.”

Darlene Marnich, Ph.D., Chair of Education Programs

Point Park University has established a School of Education to reflect current needs in education for undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees offered in flexible formats including online, hybrid and on-campus programs.

“Establishing a School of Education reflects the status and reputation of this exceptional department, not only regionally and nationally, but within our own campus community,” said University President Paul Hennigan, Ed.D.

The School of Education announcement was made on Sept 5 at a campus event attended by faculty, students, alumni, education leaders and invited guests, including Katie Berryhill, whose mother Joanne Blum founded Point Park's education department in the early 1960s.

Growing enrollment

Prior to launching the School of Education, Point Park's Department of Education has seen its enrollment increase, particularly in graduate programs at the master's level and through the establishment of doctoral-level degrees.

Currently, the School of Education offers 10 graduate degree and post-baccalaureate programs in such innovative areas as athletic coaching and a superintendent letter of eligibility, and in more traditional areas such as special education and secondary education.

The University's Ed.D. program in leadership and administration is a three-year program offering professional leadership, superintendent's letter of eligibility, K-12 administration and an individualized concentration.

Undergraduate degree programs in education currently offered at Point Park include Pre-K through fourth grade, fourth through eighth grade and secondary education — all with the option for special education dual certification — as well as programs in instructional studies and early childhood education.

Multifaceted programs

“The field of teacher education is one that is multifaceted with requirements at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The need for expanding programs and recruitment to meet state and national demands is without question,” said Darlene B. Marnich, Ph.D., professor of education and chair of the education programs at Point Park. “We have always looked at innovation programmatically and our willingness to develop new programs will allow us to continue to meet and exceed the needs of current and future students,” Marnich added.

The U.S. is currently facing a teacher shortage across the country, and although Western Pennsylvania has historically not been adversely affected by such shortages, that is no longer the case. Every state, including Pennsylvania, is experiencing teacher shortages in key subject and certification areas, including special education, science and math, and middle school education.

Roots and Wings

Remembering Joanne Blum

Katie Berryhill spoke about her mother, founder of Point Park's education department, at the Sept. 5 announcement of the new School of Education. Following are excerpts of her remarks:

“I am pleased to be here, representing the rest of my family for this announcement. I am the youngest of three daughters of



Education



Sandy McElroy, Nancy Coggeshall, Mrs. Joanne Blum, Mrs. Sally Weimer, Frank Sutton, Mrs. Judith Bansavage, Miriam Kirkell, Mrs. Stephanie Meltzer, Sonnie Shrinsky



Katie Berryhill



Joanne Blum, the founder and first chair of Point Park's Department of Education, and Arthur Blum, the second president of Point Park, as well as a granddaughter of the University's founders, Dorothy and Herb Finkelhor. My sisters (Laurie J. Glodowski and Sherry R. Blum) and I are all educators and are proud to continue that tradition into a third generation.

"Last spring, my family was at Point Park's commencement for the awarding of an honorary doctorate to my father. My sisters and I wished our mom, who passed away almost three years ago, could have been here for that event, and that she could be remembered for her own unique contributions to Point Park, specifically to the Department of Education ... I am [here] to tell you just a little bit about the amazing woman whose legacy you are all sustaining.

"Joanne Blum started the education department in the early 1960s when Point Park was a junior college, which limited it to early childhood programs. After Point Park was granted four-year status in 1966, the department was able to expand beyond early childhood education. Joanne's own education included a bachelor's in psychology from Brandeis University and a master's in elementary education from Harvard. At Brandeis, one of her professors was Abraham Maslow. He once told her that she was a 'good human being,' and for the rest of her life, she used the initials 'ghb' on the lower left corner of [her] business letters. We also put it in the same position on her gravestone.

"Under her leadership, the department grew to include a laboratory preschool and kindergarten (both of which my sisters attended), six demonstration preschools around the city, which

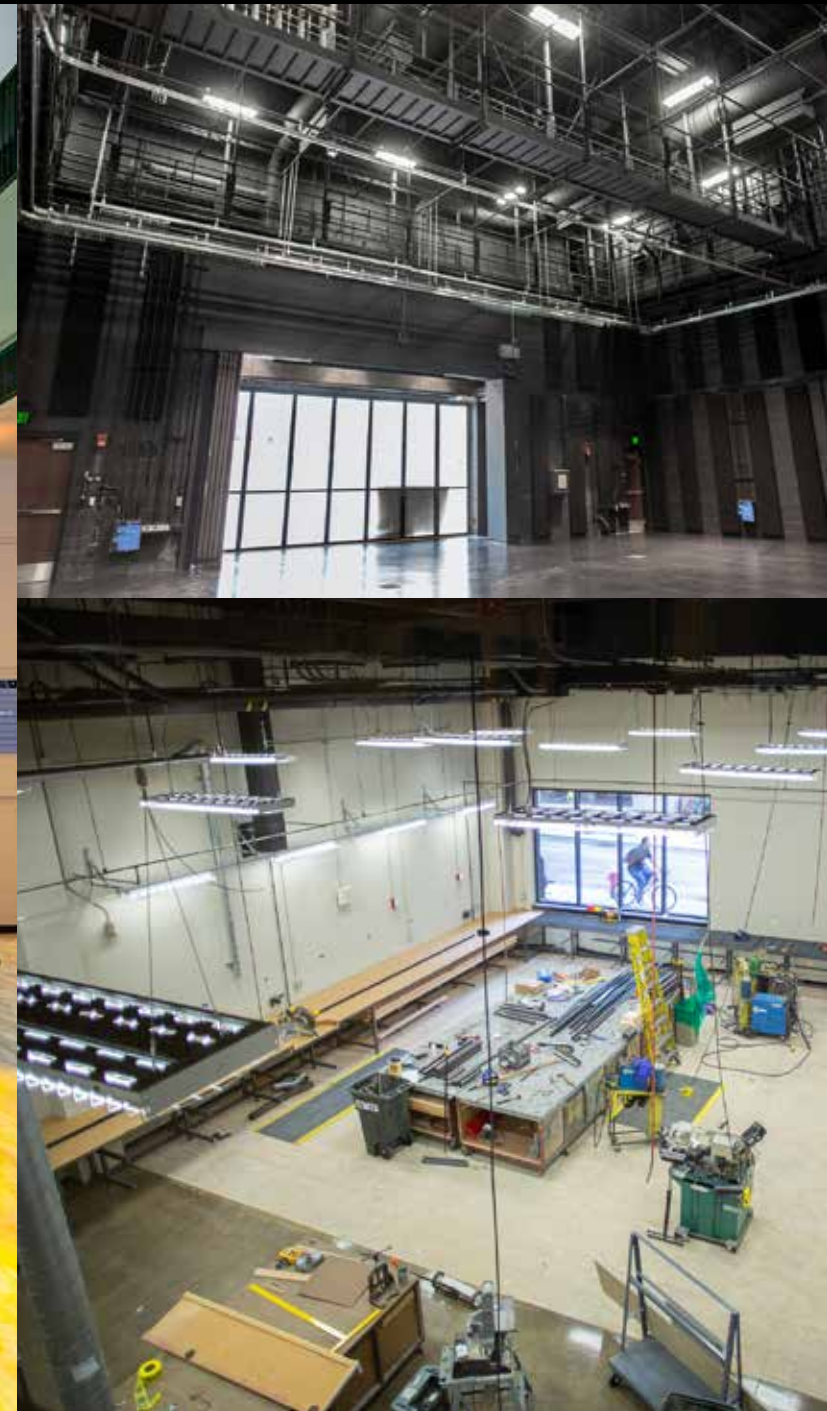
provided experience for student teachers, and a program that reflected her belief that future teachers needed backgrounds in child development and child psychology. As I was discussing the content of my remarks with my father, a phrase he used frequently was that she 'felt strongly' about certain aspects of the curriculum. That phrase encapsulates her views on children well: she felt strongly. Something she was fond of saying was, 'Hug the child who deserves it the least because he needs it the most.'

"Mom also felt strongly that all student teachers should have experience working with special needs children, and so she made particular efforts to include children with special needs in the classrooms. She also felt strongly about exposing children to the arts, and [she] made use of the resources of the college to do just that. Mom loved to tell the story of the time that the renowned

poet John Ciardi, who was doing a week-long residency at Point Park, visited the preschool to read to the children. His poetry entranced the children, and a little boy with spina bifida unhooked his leg braces, crawled over to Ciardi, and climbed into his lap. There wasn't a dry eye in the room, nor in Mom's audiences whenever she remembered that story.

"Last Thursday would have been my mother's 86th birthday, which makes today all the more appropriate for the momentous announcement that the Department of Education is becoming its own school. I can think of no better way to honor Joanne Blum than to continue to graduate generations of well-trained, kind, enthusiastic teachers who will leave Point Park's School of Education to go out into the world to fulfill her last wish, which is on her gravestone, to 'care for all the children.'" ❖

CENTER STAGE Curtain Rises on Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse



After 28 months of construction, the painstaking deconstruction and reconstruction of three historic facades, and the unprecedented restoration of a stained-glass-paneled ceiling from Pittsburgh's historic Stock Exchange Building, the gleaming new Pittsburgh Playhouse is ready for its close-up.

Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University officially opened its doors on Oct. 11 with a dedication ceremony for University

trustees and civic and community leaders. On Oct. 13, the Pittsburgh Playhouse hosted a ticketed gala event that included an elegant reception, performance, dinner and dancing (see page 22).

"We are thrilled to finally pull back the curtain on this amazing new entertainment center in Downtown Pittsburgh," said Point Park President Paul Hennigan. "For those of us who have been a part of seeing this building come to life, it's a very special moment!"

Magnificent learning laboratory

A 90,411-square-foot theater complex, the Pittsburgh Playhouse features a total of 91 rooms including a magnificent lobby space that boasts a three-story wide-open space with natural light, a grand staircase and tucked-in spaces for students to lounge and gather; the 550-seat PNC Theater whose backstage and inner workings are visible from the street, resulting in an intentional glimpse into performing arts

classes; the main floor which includes an enormous paint shop, a 2,738-square-foot soundstage three stories high, a 15-foot-high catwalk and 24-foot-high ceilings to provide professional-level learning opportunities to students in multiple disciplines, including cinematography, audio work, lighting work and aesthetics.

The new Pittsburgh Playhouse was designed to be a learning laboratory for all Point Park students, not just those enrolled in the University's prestigious Conservatory for the Performing Arts.



Students from across the academic community will have experiential learning opportunities that include aspects of producing, marketing, management, ticketing and programming. In addition, the Playhouse will collaborate with the University's Rowland School of Business and Center for Media Innovation on events, lectures and related programming. "This is a unique component of the new Playhouse and was a key driver in its design and mission. We believe the cross-disciplinary opportunities it will provide students will be unrivaled in our region," said Hennigan.

Exceptional cultural attraction

For Pittsburgh's Downtown economy and community, having another exceptional cultural attraction in the Central Business District will continue to help drive visitors to the area. Allowing for passersby to see the main stage area of the Playhouse from the street helps connect the community to students and encourages everyone to feel a part of the creative process. Theater-goers can enjoy the indoor and outdoor seating at the Pittsburgh Playhouse

Café and view up-close the larger-than-life restored facades of the Royal, Goettman and Palace buildings.

"For decades, many of our students, faculty and staff have been separated from the rest of the Academic Village," said Hennigan. "Now everyone will be part of the greater academic community and have an opportunity to be inspired by the energy, vitality and pace of Downtown Pittsburgh. It's a new beginning, and we're thrilled to finally get started," he said.

Located at 350 Forbes Ave., the new Playhouse's first season runs through April 14, 2019 and features the award-winning musicals *Cabaret* and *Sunday in the Park with George* as well as the Broadway smash, *History Boys*. Full price season subscriber packages include a complimentary season parking pass at the PNC Garage, across the street from the Playhouse. Visit Pittsburghplayhouse.com.



See a video of students in the new Playhouse at: PointPark.edu/ThePoint

BY THE NUMBERS



\$60 MILLION
Cost to build and furnish the Pittsburgh Playhouse



29
Number of subcontractors that worked on the project



28
Months for construction



30,000
Feet of galvanized aircraft cable used for stage rigging



90,411
Square footage of new construction



17
Total number of trade unions represented on the project



1 MILLION-PLUS
Feet of wire used throughout the building



780
Approximate tons of American-made steel



76,276
Square footage of four existing buildings



253
Total number of workers on the project



250,000
Feet of electrical conduit used throughout the building



700
Approximate total number of theatrical lighting fixtures



91
Total rooms in the new building



1,700
Approx. hours of labor to restore the stained-glass ceiling

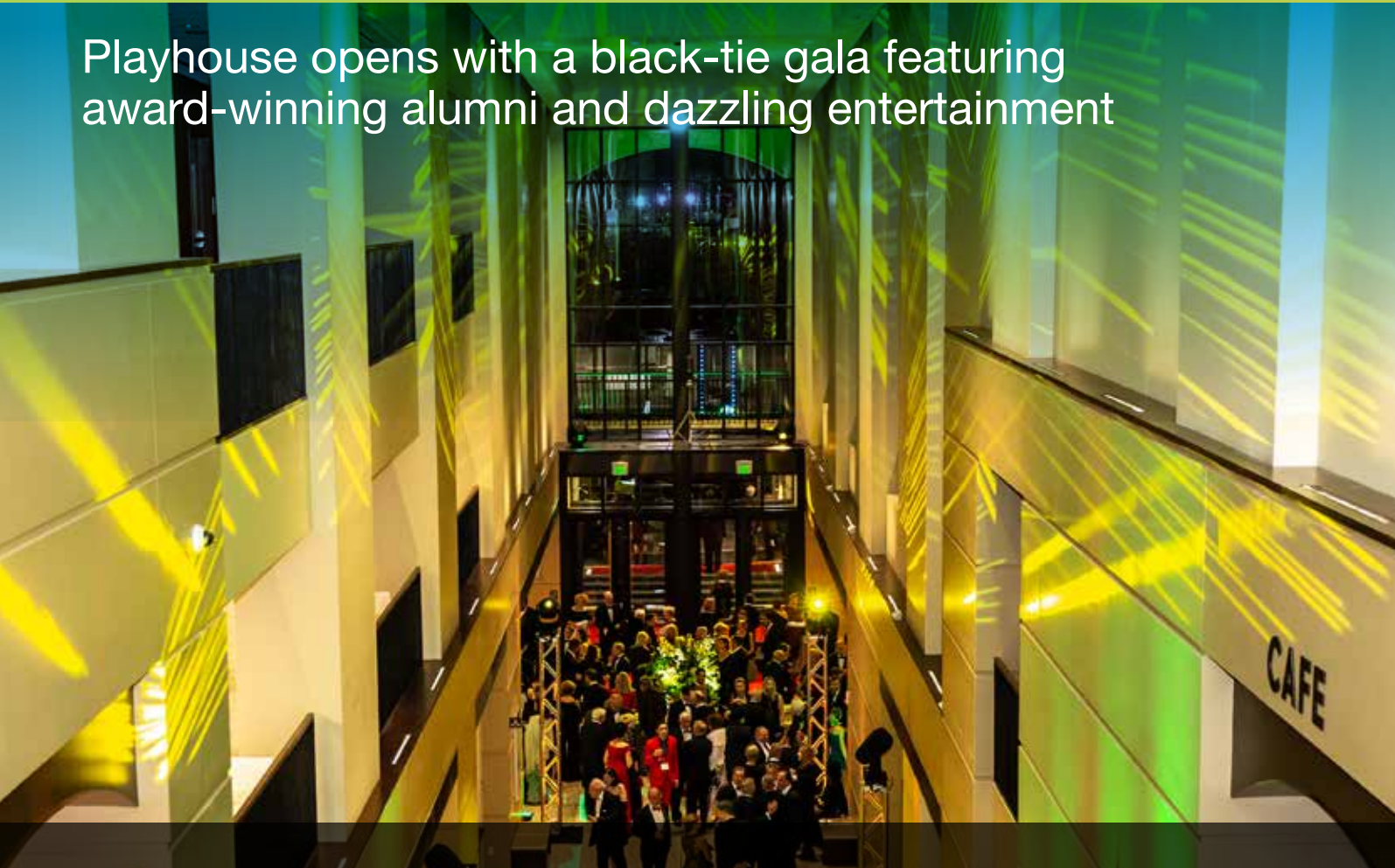


4,000
Peak number of weekly labor hours during construction



685
Total number of individual pieces to complete facades;
The Royal, 279; Goettman, 169; Palace, 237

Playhouse opens with a black-tie gala featuring award-winning alumni and dazzling entertainment



From left: Paul Hennigan, Ryan Stana, Rob Ashford, Lynn Fero, Shirley Jones, John Magaro, Tony Yazbeck and Colleen Hennigan



Susan and former Gov. Tom Corbett



Nancy Washington and E. T. Williams



Joe Greco and family



Anne Lewis and family



Penny and Ron Lindblom and Rob Ashford



Bob, Lisa and Celina Pompeani

The gleaming new Pittsburgh Playhouse opened its doors with a celebratory black-tie gala held on Saturday, Oct. 13. Over 400 guests were in attendance, including Oscar and Tony-Award winning alumni, Point Park University, trustees, civic and community leaders, faculty, students and Pittsburgh Playhouse patrons. The ticketed event kicked off with a cocktail reception in the stunning lobby of the 90,411-square-foot entertainment complex, followed by a tour de force performance by Conservatory of Performing Arts students that

included numbers from *A Chorus Line*, *Rent*, *Hair* and *Mama Mia the Musical*.

Mesmerizing performances

Tony-nominated Broadway performer Tony Yazbeck, a Point Park alumnus, took the stage to perform a solo tap dance on the darkened stage of the PNC Theater that had the audience mesmerized. After his performance, Yazbeck joined President

Paul Hennigan on stage, followed by Point Park alumni and Tony Award-winning choreographer Rob Ashford and Oscar-winner Shirley Jones, to share their warm and personal memories of their time at Point Park and the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

"I'm so happy to see the Pittsburgh Playhouse in Downtown Pittsburgh," Jones told the audience. "When I was a little girl, I used to come Downtown with my mother for voice lessons and to shop at Kaufmann's and Horne's [department stores]," she recalled. A

Smithton, Pa. native, Jones is an Academy Award-winning actress and celebrated Broadway performer who also gained fame as America's coolest mom in the TV series *The Partridge Family*. Her entertainment career began in 1952, when she won a two-year scholarship at the Playhouse Theatre School, allowing her to take acting, dancing and singing classes during the day, and audition for Playhouse productions that ran in the evening. "Everything I learned about show business, I learned at the Pittsburgh Playhouse," she said.



A place for creativity

Ashford is a Tony and Emmy award-winning choreographer and a 1983 graduate of Point Park's dance program. "It's so great to be back at Point Park," said Ashford, who spent time prior to the gala presenting master classes for musical theatre and dance students. "Congratulations on the [new Pittsburgh Playhouse], this is amazing," said Ashford. "Not only this beautiful [theater], but the entire complex, [which offers]

so many places for students to create." Ashford has directed such productions as *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Donmar Warehouse in London; the Broadway revival of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, starring Scarlett Johansson; and *Promises, Promises*, featuring Sean Hayes.

In 2009, Ashford won the Emmy for Outstanding Choreography for the 81st Annual Academy Awards. In 2002, he won a Tony Award for Best Choreography for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and

he has been nominated for six additional Tony awards, including his work on *Cry-Baby*, *Curtains* and *The Wedding Singer*.

Dream come true

During the gala performance, guests viewed a video that traced Pittsburgh Playhouse history and shared highlights of the new Playhouse, which will not only be a performance space but also a learning laboratory for students from many different disciplines.

Following a stellar performance of song and dance by Conservatory students, guests proceeded to various locations throughout the Playhouse for an elegant dinner catered by the Duquesne Club. The evening ended with dessert and dancing in the Highmark Theater. Other VIP Point Park alumni in attendance included actor John Magaro, artist and CBS executive Lynn Fero, and CEO and founder of live production company RWS Entertainment Group Ryan Stana. "The new Pittsburgh Playhouse is a dream come true," said Hennigan. ❖

ALUMNI CONNECTION



MARK YOUR CALENDAR	
NOV. 29	(Las Vegas) Alumni Dinner
DEC. 15	(Pittsburgh) Alumni Holiday Brunch & Show
FEB. 4-8	(Florida) President's events in various cities
FEB. 10	(Los Angeles) Alumni & Student Dinner
MAR. 6	(Pittsburgh) Alumni Professional Development Reception
MAR. 20	(Chicago) Alumni Reception
APR. 9	(Pittsburgh) Alumni & Senior Networking Reception
Visit PointPark.edu/alumni for more information.	

Dear fellow alumni and friends,

It has been an exciting year for the Alumni Association Board of Directors. The needs of Point Park alumni, and the University community, continue to drive the focus of the Board. I am excited to report that our Board represents all schools within the University and a diverse range of majors, degrees and graduation years.

We have also expanded our Board's regional presence, with directors based in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia. I encourage you to visit PointPark.edu/alumni to learn more about our Board. On behalf of all the directors, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We want our alumni to continue to engage with the University. Alumni are a vital asset to the success of Point Park.

We also have several exciting events and opportunities planned for the upcoming year. We will be visiting Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City and multiple cities in Florida. If you are in the Pittsburgh area, join us for one of our professional development receptions! If you are planning to visit downtown Pittsburgh,

I encourage you to contact the Alumni Relations office and arrange for a tour of the University.

Whether you graduated within the past year, or the past couple of decades, the campus is always growing and evolving. With the addition of the new Pittsburgh Playhouse, the School of Education, and the Center for Media Innovation, we are truly a dynamic urban University.

We are always interested in beginning a discussion with alumni who want to learn more about the Board of Directors. Serving on the Board of Directors and as president is an immensely rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing to be the voice for all 28,000 alumni.

Please keep in touch with us by sharing your ideas and achievements. You can reach us at alumni@pointpark.edu.

Best,

Jamie

Jamie Inferrera (COM '10)
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

CLASS NOTES

1970s

Judith Rowlands, Ed.D. (COPA 1975), has retired with the title of dean emerita at Camden County College in Blackwood, N.J. Rowlands, a theatre arts graduate, says she has fond memories of doing plays at the old Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland during her time as a student at Point Park. She went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Michigan and her Ed.D. at Widener University.

Joseph L. Luvara, Esq. (A&S 1971), an attorney with Dickey McCamey and Chilcote in Pittsburgh, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in "The Best Lawyers in America." Luvara, who earned his degree in history at Point Park in 1971, was cited for his defense work in personal injury litigation and product liability litigation.

1980s

Peter Wentzel (COPA 1982) is head of production finance for MRC. He has ushered Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, and continues to usher the new film *Mortal Engines* towards a highly-anticipated release in December 2018.

James Caskowski (COM 1980) celebrated his 70th birthday by taking a spin on the Green River Gorge zipline in Saluda, N.C. A longtime resident of North Carolina, and an accomplished artist and woodworker, he says that he "has plans to do a tandem skydive" as well.

1990s

John Siciliano (COPA 1997) is back in Pittsburgh after spending the past 22 years acting in Los Angeles and New York City. He plays a recurring character on the newest season of the highly rated CBS television series *Bull*. As a Point Park student, Siciliano lost his leg during the summer of 1993. He

went on to break records as a 200 meter sprinter at the 1996 Paralympic games as well as become a successful actor. A member of the Diversity Committee for SAG-AFTRA, Siciliano says that "it's huge that [CBS] cast an amputee actor to play an amputee." He adds, "Point Park has always supported me in everything I've done, and I will always give back."

2000s



Amadeo Fusca (COPA '09) returned to his hometown of Pittsburgh to appear in *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* at the CLO Cabaret from Sept. 6-Oct. 14. The six-week run at the CLO Cabaret included 37 shows. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "New York-based Fusca had performed the show about 270 times, with return trips to Texas and Florida, before bringing it home to Pittsburgh. 'There's always a place to insert something about whatever town I'm in,' he said. He knows that will bring the audience along with him, skills he has honed as a member of a sketch comedy team at NYC's Upright Citizens Brigade and as the 2013 winner of the Friars Club "So You Think You Can Roast?" competition, beating out 55 fellow comedians. The Point

Park grad worked with a high school buddy from Woodland Hills, Mike Smith, to form his roast routines for actor Ricky Schroder and Dennis Rodman, earning the prize of being among the comedians to take on Jack Black. He was on a dais with Amy Poehler, [and] Sarah Silverman." Read the entire PG article at: bit.ly/2CFkvNE.

Shaun Cameron Hall (COPA '04) is director of education and community engagement at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. He was named by The Incline as one of "22 Pittsburghers Making Art and Making a Difference." According to The Incline, Hall is "passionate about connecting talented artists with students across the region — a job he describes as "a dream." Hall is building the "audience of the future," his nominator said. He does that by running programs, such as summer classes and a Shakespeare monologue contest, that introduce elementary and high school students to theater. An actor for more than 20 years, Hall has performed in dozens of plays, commercials, and films, and he teaches an improv class at the Public Theater." Read more at The Incline: <https://bit.ly/2JeknWt>.

Clare Fog (COPA '08) writes, "In 2011, I opened my own independent film production company [and] produced my first feature film in Los Angeles, where I won Best Breakthrough Director at the Independent Filmmakers Showcase. Later, I was the first American participant in Kinoeyes European Movie Masters, where I received an M.A. in

**DROP US
A NOTE!**

Visit PointPark.edu/classnote
to share your news.

film producing, [while] studying in Portugal, Estonia, and Scotland. Through Creative Europe funding, I produced three short films, which are currently touring festivals, including the Palm Springs International Shortfest. Now I'm producing a short film with Italy, which will be shot in Bali, Indonesia, and I'm hosting photo exhibits around the world, including one in Jacksonville, Fla. Read more at: www.ilvespista.com. It's a biopic road movie about Italy's famous travel writer who explored the world by Vespa. As a location scout in Bali, I'll be traveling by Vespa and documenting the production process. I also received news that a feature film I'm writing and producing received a National Endowment [award] from Portugal. I worked with an animation studio in Lisbon to learn more about animation production. I've had a unique experience traveling the world to make films. After Indonesia, I will be based in Rome to work on post production of our Vespa film." Learn more at: www.clearfogfilms.com.

2010s

Amanda King (COM '12) is a communications analyst at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She earned her degree in broadcast journalism at Point Park. Recently engaged, she says her favorite Point Park memory is meeting her fiancé.

Emma Mercier (COPA '18) played Lydia, and a variety of other surprising roles, in the Pittsburgh premiere of Kate Hamill's innovative comedy *Pride and Prejudice* at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. The production ran Sept. 27-Oct. 28 at the O'Reilly Theater in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. Hamill's comedy starts with Jane Austen's classic story about the Bennet sisters and their search for love in 19th century England, then amps up the humor by injecting the period piece with ingenious and anachronistic twists.

Heart of Point Park



Kristen (Weaver) Morgan (A&S '10 and '13) and **Justin Morgan** (A&S '10) are proud alumni of the new School of Education at Point Park. Kristen earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education



Erin Price (COM '12) and **Michael LaMantia**, who met as students at Point Park, have announced their engagement and will marry on Aug. 17, 2019. According to the couple, they "found themselves on the same Facebook group in the summer of 2008. Michael was giving advice to the incoming freshmen at Point Park, and Erin messaged him to ask some questions about college. He wasn't much help, but little did they know, this brief online conversation would turn into much more! Within a month, Michael sent Erin a message on Facebook asking how she was liking her first dorm room, and they continued to talk from there." For their first date, in September 2008, "Michael

and Erin met in front of the University Center at Point Park. Since Erin just moved to Pittsburgh, she was unfamiliar with the city and how to get around. Michael took Erin on a walking tour around Downtown, Point State Park, the North Shore and Uptown. Since then, every part of Pittsburgh, as well as other cities they traveled to, became filled with memories between the two." Erin is a web developer at United Steelworkers. Michael, who finished his degree at California University of Pennsylvania, is a loan counselor at Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).

in 2010 and her master's degree in special education, with certification for Pre-K through Grade 8, in 2013. Justin earned a joint bachelor's degree in English and secondary education in 2010. The couple wrote that although they wanted to return to campus for the announcement of the new school (see page 12), they were unable to do so due to their own teaching obliga-

tions and their hearts were with former and current faculty and students who gathered in September to celebrate the big news. According to Kristen, "We got married on Aug. 9, 2014 and had some photos taken at Point Park following the reception since that's where we met. We actually have this picture on our wall at home! Love it! Thank you to Point Park for many happy memories!"

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

thanks (FOR) giving

Your generous support, through the Point Park University Annual Fund, provides a quality experience for students. Last year, with the help of alumni and friends like you:

- Among incoming first-year students, 99 percent received some form of financial aid.
- More than 180 students traveled and experienced new cultures in the United States and abroad.
- Newly renovated labs sparked the scientific curiosity of more than 800 students engaged in hands-on learning.

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

Give a gift through the Annual Fund today and transform a student's life tomorrow. Visit PointPark.edu/Give to learn how to increase your impact.

BASEBALL PIONEERS



Dave Duncan

The baseball teams of the 1970s remain wildly dedicated to the game and to each other

By Rich Fisher (COM 1980)

In the 1970s, about the only thing Point Park baseball teams did more than win games, was have fun. They approached both with equal zeal and captured the imagination and attention of an entire school and city.

In the fall of 1976, upon arriving from New Jersey at what was then a two-building "campus" divided by Wood Street, certain folks advised me to "keep clear of the baseball team, they could be a little wild."

That was the best advice I never took.

A few days after meeting affable first baseman Ed Haberle, I found myself singing Aerosmith songs with second baseman Joe Fiori at a TGIF party, and the team embraced me as one of their own. I did everything with them but suit up on gameday. And I still cherish many as best friends. They were wild all right – wildly dedicated to baseball and each other.

A reunion to remember

That dedication was celebrated this past summer with a reunion after nearly 40 years. It was 1979-80 grads Dave Duncan, Denny "Snapout" Welch, Fiori and Haberle who staged the reunion for the teams of the 1970s.

Former head coach Barry Hanburger and nearly 40 players and supporters attended the event at Duncan's home, along with Point Park President Paul Hennigan, current baseball coach Loren Torres and Assistant Athletic Director Kevin Taylor. Much of the turnout was "coaxed" by Welch, who lived up to his nickname if someone dare told him they weren't coming. After being snapped at by Snapout, you changed your mind and were glad you did. For Hanburger, it was the first time seeing most of his players in 40 years. It felt like 40 minutes. "With some of the guys it seemed like yesterday, as if nothing had changed in our lives," Hanburger said. "The stories seemed to pick up exactly as

if we just had a game a few days ago. I think that is because there was, and is, a lack of pretense with these guys to the extent that they are humble in what they achieved and what they still have lying ahead of them. "A lot of them have become successful in a career or monetary way, but those are not the only keys to success. Simply being a good husband, father and friend goes a long way to making your life a success."

When it comes to friendships, this group takes success to a new level. Like their coach, the former teammates quickly eased into conversations as the stories, food and drink flowed for over six hours. There is a bond that has been forever woven together by athletic accomplishments and an "us-against-the-world" attitude cultivated throughout the 1970s. What was considered wild back then wouldn't even pass as colorful on modern day campuses. It was just a bunch of charismatic guys who enjoyed having fun and sometimes got a little loud while doing so. The only thing they enjoyed more was winning baseball games.

Groundwork for success

They laid the groundwork that countless Point Park baseball teams have built upon in establishing one of the great NAIA baseball legacies. The late Frankie Gustine, a former Pirate, piloted the first NAIA World Series qualifier in 1974 followed by Hanburger and the late Ben Fiori, a former Buccos scout, later in the decade. "Frank Gustine (and star players) Harry Westwood and Lou Abel started the tradition," Haberle said. "Barry inherited the winning tradition, embraced it with great local talent, and it continues today with Coach (Loren) Torres."

The program started competition on the four-year level in 1968, and from 1970-80, Point Park went 207-67 (.755) with six District 18 championships, four NAIA World Series appearances and a national third-place finish in 1979. Point Park also finished third at the 1986 NAIA World Series under coach Mark Jackson.



Barry Hanburger

What made that so amazing is the players had no training or practice facilities – or home field, for that matter – to call their own. They drove dilapidated vans, and for years they paid to work out at nautilus centers on their own. Most were commuters, but those who lived at school had nowhere to even have a catch. We conducted raffles each year to earn our own money to buy new uniforms, jackets and equipment so we always had the best we could afford,” Hanburger said.

Elevated program

And yet Hanburger managed to nab some of Western Pennsylvania’s best players to elevate the program’s status beyond anyone’s wildest dreams. The driving force behind the late 1970s teams were Duncan, Haberle and Fiori, who lived together in room 1501, the team’s social mecca. All three are in the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame along with their one-year teammate John Stuper (1978), who went on to win a World Series game for the St. Louis Cardinals and is now the coach at Yale.

The roommates noted that Hanburger’s honest, no-nonsense approach is what coerced them. Duncan was impressed by a package Hanburger put together highlighting the program’s success. Haberle wanted to stay close to home, liked the idea of being in downtown Pittsburgh and was more worried about who he would have as teammates rather than the facilities he didn’t have. Fiori was set to attend Marshall before Haberle, a summer league teammate on the Little Pirates, suggested he listen to Hanburger’s pitch.

“Barry talked about the great recruiting class he had already assembled over the summer and that they were building the program from that incoming recruiting class,” Fiori said. “He

never showed me any facilities, never talked about their home field and I never asked. It turns out, there was a reason he never talked about their facilities; they didn’t have any!” And yet, Fiori came. The Pioneers reached the World Series his junior year and his dad, Benny, took over in 1979. Point Park finished third in the nation that year and reached the World Series again in 1980 after major graduation hits.

Chemistry endures

Aside from talent, those teams had a chemistry that never dissolved. “My closest, dearest friends have been by my side during times of laughter and tears,” Haberle said. “Now it is time to give back to a school that helped me be the person I am today.” Haberle and Duncan are both on Point Park’s Board of Trustees along with fellow 1970s baseball alums Joe Ogrodnik and Jeff Cohen. “To this day, 40 years later, I consider my roommates and teammates among my closest friends,” Duncan said. “We were incredibly confident – perhaps to the edge of arrogance. But it was born out of a supreme belief in each other and our abilities. We never felt that we could lose. Someone, somehow would come through in the clutch and deliver a win. Of course, we did lose occasionally, but it was only because we ran out of innings.”

“We really believed we could compete against any team in college baseball. The loose, relaxed and confident attitude of the team was real and did relieve the pressure because we did everything together. We formed a bond and a brotherhood that was unlike anything I’ve ever seen before or since.”

Winning friendships

That bond was on full display at the reunion, as the young brothers reunited as middle-aged men, many of whom have gone on to great success as executives, coaches, salesmen, crisis counselors, bankers and numerous other professions. In the middle of it all, like a proud father, was Hanburger. “Everyone seemed delighted to be there and just enjoy each other’s company,” he said. “Guys did not talk about themselves but were very interested to hear what happened in their friends’ lives since we parted.” And when they reunited, that winning pride and zest for good times ran through the entire group once again. It all felt just right. ❖

New Jersey native Rich Fisher (COM 1980), who covered Point Park’s baseball teams for The Globe student newspaper in the 1970s, went on to become a sports editor for two weekly newspapers and a freelance writer for The Trentonian. He has covered sports for the Associated Press and served as a writer for various corporate and business ventures. Fisher is the founder of Fish4Scores.com, the all-Hamilton Township sports website. He tweets at: twitter.com/Fish4scores.



NEW DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS Point Park welcomes John Ashaolu

John Ashaolu has been hired as Point Park’s new director of athletics. He has 14 years of experience in athletics, including the last seven as an athletic director.

“I am extremely excited to welcome John Ashaolu as the new director of athletics,” said Keith Paylo, vice president of student affairs and dean of students. “John brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and I look forward to him taking Point Park athletics to the next level. John will be [responsible for] elevating Point Park athletics on both a regional and national level in all 17 sports that the University offers. I look forward to working closely with him to accomplish these goals.”

“I am humbled and honored by [this] opportunity,” said Ashaolu, a native of Toronto. “Point Park is a preeminent institution in the region, and its continued investment in athletics

programs illustrates the importance that athletics plays in the University’s upward trajectory. I am excited to be working with the athletics staff, and the entire Point Park community, to provide our student-athletes and all students with the best possible experience we can.” Ashaolu comes to Point Park from the Community College of Allegheny County, where he served as director of athletics for all of the college’s campuses and 16 athletic teams.

Student-athlete mentor

He was also director of athletics and student programs at the Community College of Beaver County from 2014-18 and served as an adjunct professor at the school. Ashaolu’s time at CCBC included doubling the number of NJCAA sports, from three to six teams. Other highlights during his time at CCBC include raising the student-athlete GPA to 3.13, placing 70 percent of the

student-athletes on the Dean’s List, overseeing a renovation of the fitness center and a Top-10 NJCAA national ranking for the men’s basketball team.

From 2011-14, Ashaolu was director of athletics at Seton-La Salle High School, where he served as the girls’ basketball head coach and transportation director. During his time, Seton-La Salle won the Trib Total Media Cup for the best interscholastic athletic program in Western Pennsylvania. There were two state championships, five WPIAL titles and 15 section championships with Ashaolu as athletic director. His time in college athletics includes serving as director of basketball operations at East Carolina University from 2009-10, as assistant director of basketball operations at Duquesne University from 2006-08, and as assistant men’s basketball coach at Trinity Valley (Texas) Community College from 2004-05.

Ashaolu played NCAA Division I basketball at the University of New Orleans. His final two years of college basketball were played at Xavier University (La.), an NAIA school in New Orleans. He was a part of a Xavier team that reached the NAIA Division I national tournament his senior year of 2003-04. Ashaolu holds a master’s degree in sports leadership from Duquesne University and a bachelor’s degree from Xavier University (La.). He is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership-higher education from the American College of Education. ❖

THE POINT

Point Park University
201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 1674

Read The Point online! Visit PointPark.edu/ThePoint.

Professionally designed. *THAT'S THE POINT.*

“ I had the opportunity to work with a peer coach, a career coach and a relationship partner at the firm (PwC). ”

AMBER MOLE

**Former Co-op Student Employee, PwC
B.S. in Accounting, B.S. in Business Management, '18**



Amber received a job offer, before graduating, and is working as a first-year associate at PwC.

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

- Cooperative education program for paid, full-time employment and college credit while earning a degree
- 100+ career-focused undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs

See where students and alumni are working and how their Point Park experience made the difference:



PointPark.edu/Careers

**POINT
PARK**
UNIVERSITY