

Dear alumni and friends,

In the spirit of this season of transition and giving thanks, I'd like to share with you a portion of a letter I recently received from the father of a Point Park University freshman. He took the time to compliment the many University people who provided personal assistance and support for his daughter and their family throughout the admission and orientation process.

He wrote: "Every individual we have dealt with, in every department, has been so helpful and pleasant. Every time we've called or written, we have received the needed help with courtesy. Then there was the two-day Pioneer Experience. That was so well-organized and provided the opportunity to get answers to every question we had...In short, we are very impressed with your school and your staff. We are very happy [our daughter] decided to attend Point Park."

This letter exemplifies the grateful sentiments that I often hear about, and read about, from our students and their families. And as I reflect upon campus activities and events in the past several months, I am filled with admiration and appreciation for the extraordinary people of our Point Park family.



I'm very proud of the many students, faculty and staff who reached out to welcome more than 800 new freshmen and transfer students and their families to campus last August. At The Pioneer Experience orientation program, these students came together to make new friends and discover all that Point Park has to offer. The celebration continued at our annual fall Convocation on August 28 at the Sheraton Station Square, where students gathered with classmates and University leaders to learn about the scholastic experience and embrace the Point Park tradition.

This whole-hearted commitment to service has been embraced by the entire campus community. For example, at the beginning of this year we launched the Striving to Achieve Remarkable Service (STARS) program. Since then we've honored numerous University employees for outstanding service, conducted a survey of internal service, and developed service improvement plans for each department.

We can all take pride in the fact that Point Park is a welcoming place of growth and transformation--in the lives of our students and the city of Pittsburgh. Our people are the heart and soul of this transformation. We hope you enjoy getting to know some of them in this issue of The Point.

From all of us at Point Park, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and happy and healthy 2010.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan President President
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On the Cover: Dr. Timothy J.
Hudson, Dean of the School
of Communication, and Dr.
Angela Hardy Isaac, Dean of
the School of Business, in the
expanded lobby entrance of
historic Lawrence Hall.

Photo by Ric Evans

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Letters to the Editor

For the first time in more than 30 years, I returned to the University in October 2008. It is still strange to say 'University' since I graduated when it was the 'College' in 1971.

I was in Pittsburgh on business as was my friend Jacqueline Clarke-Havrilla (A&S 1973) who is an elementary school principal in Eastern Pennsylvania. We met for a campus tour that began with nostalgia and ended with an unexpected sense of pride in being Point Park alumni. We were simply astounded by the changes on the Downtown campus. We were very impressed by the University's plans for future growth.

Point Park celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2010. It will be a unique opportunity to come together and celebrate our common history and all that has been accomplished over the past five decades. With the history of our University still very much alive, we need to preserve the memories and traditions of faculty, staff and alumni who shaped and created the foundation for Point Park's success today. Planning for the 50th anniversary is underway so watch for specific information and plan to attend.

For many of us, friends made in college are friends you retain for life. I encourage all alumni, especially those who haven't been on campus for many years, to come back, reconnect with one another and help build a community of alumni.

For most of my career, I worked in higher education administration. I know Point Park gave me an outstanding education. We have good reason to be proud of our alma mater. Come celebrate.

Rick Haskins (COM 1971)

Partner, Jerold Panas Linzy & Partners Chicago, Ill.

Hello Point Park! It's been a long time since I've been back on campus, but my fond memories will never fade. In working as a motion graphics designer on The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien, it's very exciting because I use some of the same software programs I learned in class at Point Park and Pittsburgh Filmmakers. I understand that Point Park now has a digital cinema program that was not part of my curriculum as a film and video production major. Outstanding! Thanks again for the challenging experiences and education. I use it every day!

Eric McGilloway (COPA 1998) **ELM Creative** Los Angeles, Calif.



Professional Advancement

Professor **Helen Fallon** has been appointed director of the Point Park University Honors Program. "Helen brings to this program a commitment to academic excellence and a proven history of her ability to work with students." said Karen McIntyre, vice provost and dean of faculty. "Her knowledge of the University will enable her to continue the efforts to strengthen the Honors Program in accord with the national Collegiate Honors Council standards."

The School of Business announced several new appointments for the 2009-2010 academic year. "We're pleased to recognize our colleagues for accepting these leadership positions in what will be an exciting year of growth and opportunity for the School of Business," said Dean Angela Isaac. The appointments are: Al Kowalewski, acting chairperson of the Department of Management (includes Marketing, Human Resources, Organizational Leadership, Public Administration, and Sport, Arts & Entertainment Management); Fred Kitner, acting chairperson of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, and Information Technology; and **Dimitris Kraniou**, director of graduate programs. Isaac also announced that "George Bromall has agreed to continue in his role of community engagement, building on recent successes in establishing site programs at U.S. Steel and GAI Consulting."

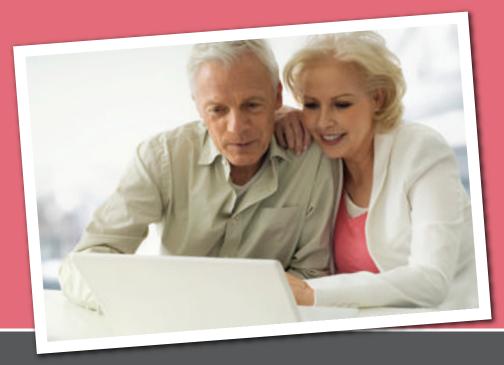
The School of Communication announced three leadership appointments, effective in the 2009-2010 academic year. Dane Claussen has been named director of graduate programs and faculty development; Robert O'Gara is the new acting chair of the Department of Media Studies; and Anthony Moretti has been named acting chair of the Department of Journalism. "Please join me in thanking Dane, Bob, and Anthony for their offers to serve in these formative roles," said Timothy Hudson, dean of the School of Communication. "This will be an exciting and busy year for our new School."

Robert J. Fowler, assistant professor in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies, made a presentation at Princeton University in Princeton, N.J. last spring. He participated in a symposium which dealt with educational issues and at-risk children. His presentation focused on issues surrounding children in various educational settings from multiple placements.

Matthew Opdyke, assistant professor of environmental studies in the Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology, and student Bryan Dolney presented posters at the national Ecological Society of America (ESA) conference in Albuquerque on August 7. The posters displayed their research in using dendrochronology (tree-age classification) in wetland conservation with the Allegheny Land Trust at Wingfield Pines near Bridgeville and using lichen (algae-fungus symbionts) as air-quality indicators in Allegheny and surrounding counties. In August 2010, the **Ecological Society of America conference** will be held in Pittsburgh, attracting over 4,000 international ecologists. This will offer

biological science students an opportunity to present their work to international audiences.

Dane Claussen, professor and director of graduate programs and faculty development, has been named research chair of the Media Management and Economics Division, Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC). Dr. Claussen becomes the Division's vice-head and program chair in 2010-11, and then head in 2011-12. As research chair, Claussen will coordinate the judging of papers competing to be presented at the 2010 AEJMC Convention in Denver. Claussen was also appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of Asia Pacific Media Educator, a scholarly journal published by the University of Wollongong in Australia. Claussen teaches newspaper and magazine management as well as graduate courses in social science



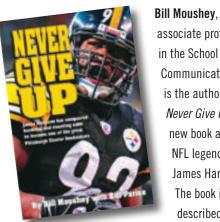
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research methods, media ethics, sociology of journalism, communications law and mass media history. He is a former editor and/or publisher of various daily, weekly, biweekly, and monthly newspapers in Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington. He also is editor of the AEJMC's Journalism & Mass Communication Educator—a scholarly journal dedicated to research about teaching and learning in the journalism and related mass media professions and disciplines.



associate professor in the School of Communication. is the author of Never Give Up, a new book about

NFL legend

The book is

described

James Harrison.

as a gripping story about how the reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year overcame daunting obstacles as a child in Akron and as a college player at Kent State, as well as being cut four times by NFL teams, before becoming an All-Pro linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers. For more information, visit www.jamesharrisonnevergiveup.com.

Archish Maharaja is leading courses in a new health systems track in Point Park's M.B.A. program. The new program has already attracted a number of executives from Pittsburgh's thriving health care community, says Maharaja. He also presented a paper, The Effects of a Salesperson's Cognitive and Emotional Intelligence on Sales Performance in a Knowledge-based B2B Service Setting, at the International Conference on Advances in Management (ICAM) annual convention in Colorado Springs on July 15. The conference



Convocation 2009

attracts professors from around the world who present research papers on management subjects. Maharaja co-authored his paper with Lori Molinari. At the same conference, Maharaja was elected to the 2009-2010 board of trustees for ICAM. He will chair a track on Creativity, Innovation, IT and Change at ICAM's 2010 conference, to be held next July in Atlanta.

Keith Paylo has been named dean of student affairs, effective August 14. He previously served as acting dean of student affairs. Michaelita Quinn, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, praised the "substantial contribution that Keith has made to the Student Affairs area during this past year. His dedication to delivering a Quality Student Experience here at Point Park has led to new and revised programs, and a new energy across the Student Affairs departments."

New Students Connect at Convocation

Point Park University welcomed more than 800 incoming freshmen and transfer students to campus in late August, and many came

together to meet fellow classmates and University leaders at Convocation, on August 28 at the Sheraton Station Square Ballroom. "Heading to college is an exhilarating experience. Convocation offers new students an opportunity to begin forging a lifelong bond with Point Park," said President Paul Hennigan, who welcomed students to their first formal University ceremony. "It's a chance to meet new friends, learn about the scholastic experience, and embrace the Point Park tradition." Provost Charles Perkins gave students an overview of what to expect from their academic experience. Students were introduced to school deans by vice provost and dean of faculty, Karen McIntyre, Ryan Deasy, president of United Student Government, also offered attendees advice from a student perspective. A reception for students, faculty and staff followed the event.

Dancers Stage Flash Mob for G-20 Visitors

On September 21, as Pittsburgh prepared to welcome the world for the G-20 Summit (September 24-25), hundreds of Point Park dancers staged a flash mob celebration of peace and solidarity. Simultaneously at 1:15 p.m., in three separate locations, 300 dancers hit the streets for a spontaneous dance performance to a medley of songs such as America, All You Need is Love, We are Family, and Celebrate in PPG Plaza, Oxford Plaza, and



Flash mob performance at Oxford Center. Photo by Terra McBride Steel Plaza in Downtown Pittsburgh. Point Park alumna and faculty member Kiesha Lalama-White directed and choreographed the performance. Student performers removed their overcoats to represent the shedding of stereotypes and labels and revealed Point Park University/Colcom peace-sign t-shirts to symbolize that deep down inside we are really one person. Lalama-White's creative team included executive producer Ronald Allan-Lindblom, assistant director Jason Coll, and assistant choreographers Jeremy Czarniak and Heather Kronk. The project was presented in partnership with Colcom Foundation. This unique cultural contribution reflects the University's Academic Village vision, a \$244 million campus and neighborhood initiative. Through the Academic Village, Point Park is bringing more students to live Downtown, green spaces, a new student convocation center and a commitment to sustainable development in the region's core.

Economist Stuart Hoffman Leads Forum on G-20

Pittsburgh's own **Stuart Hoffman**, senior vice president and chief economist for the PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., spoke about the global, national and regional issues to be impacted by the G-20 summit (which took place in Pittsburgh the following week) at a forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, in the Point Park ballroom on September 15. Hoffman, a sought after television and radio guest, is often featured on national news programs such as CNBC, Bloomberg TV and The Wall Street Journal Radio Report. The free lecture was open to the public.

Point Park Partners with Woodland Hills High School

Point Park and Woodland Hills School District have initiated a new cooperative arrangement, a public-private partnership known as the "College Now" program, in which high school juniors and seniors take dual-enrollment courses at Point Park. The students earn college credits for core high school classes that will count toward their Woodland Hills diplomas, without paying for tuition, books, lunch or transportation. Twenty five Woodland Hills students enrolled in the new program in fall 2009, with 21 students expected to begin classes in the spring. More than 100 Woodland Hills parents and students attended the first information session to learn more about the College Now program. **Stanley Denton**, assistant professor of education and diversity fellow at Point Park, is leading the program, which also provides mentoring opportunities to Point Park students.

Point Park Hosts Opal Awards Gala

Women in Film and Media (WIFM), Pittsburgh chapter, honored actress Shirley Jones with an OPAL Award for her community service and contributions to the film and media industry at an October 12 gala in the Lawrence Hall lobby at Point Park. The University will name a scholarship for Jones, who got her start as an actress at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. She had previously been the recipient of an honorary degree from the University. **Faith Dickinson** (COM 1994), is the founder and president of the WIFM's Pittsburgh chapter and a member of the international association



Assistant Professor of Photojournalism Christopher Rolinson took this photo of The People's March, as dubbed by the Thomas Merton Center, as it moved from Oakland through Uptown along Forbes Avenue towards a rally at the city-County Building in downtown Pittsburgh on Sept. 25, the second day of the G-20 Summit.

of WIFM. An actress, producer and director, she is a longtime leader in the organization's Public Service Announcement (PSA) program, through which WIFM provides marketing assistance to non-profit organizations. At the gala WIFM also presented the Patti Burns Award for excellence in television as well as a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in the film and media program. Many Point Park students provided entertainment and production assistance at the event.

Ralph Nader Visits Point Park

Consumer advocate and former presidential candidate **Ralph Nader** presented a lecture on The Mega Corporate Destruction of Capitalism and Democracy at Point Park on Oct. 19. Sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences and Global Cultural Studies, the lecture and question and answer session was followed



by a reception and signing of Nader's book, Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us! Honored by Time magazine as "One of the 100 Most Influential

Americans of the Twentieth Century," Nader is dedicated to giving average Americans the tools they need to defend themselves against corporate negligence and government indifference. Nader has organized millions of citizens into hundreds of groups which he helped start, including the Center for Auto Safety, the Pension Rights Center, the Disability Rights Center, and the student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) that operate in over 20 states. According to Nader: "To go through life as a non-citizen would be to feel that there's nothing you can do, that nobody's listening, that you don't matter. But to be a citizen is to enjoy the deep satisfaction of seeing justice prevail."

Poetry Series Features Mary Biddinger

Author Mary Biddinger presented a poetry reading as part of the University's Poetry Series on October 6 in the Lawrence Hall Ballroom. Biddinger is the author of Prairie Fever (Steel Toe Books, 2007) and the chapbook Saint Monica (forthcoming with Black Lawrence Press). Her poetry has recently appeared or is forthcoming in 32 Poems, Copper Nickel, diode, Gulf Coast, The Laurel Review, North American Review, Passages North, Third Coast, and other journals. She is the editor of the Akron Series in Poetry, co-editor-in-chief of Barn Owl Review, and director of the NEOMFA: Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. Biddinger teaches at the University

of Akron.

MBA Graduate Wins Austrian Business Competition

Nigel Wright, a 2009 Point Park M.B.A. graduate, was part of a student team that took the top prize in an international business competition at the 2009 Summer University of Carinthia in Villach, Austria. Sponsored by The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the program brought together more than 50 business students from 18 countries to develop creative solutions to problems faced by Austrian companies. Wright's award-winning team developed an innovative business model for Padmo, an Austrian virtual tel-com provider. "It was a great experience in operating in markets outside of my familiarity," said Wright, who received a scholarship to attend the program. "Working with such a great international team to develop innovative solutions for distributing these high-technology devices was a rewarding experience." Point Park Professor Thomas Boyle also presented lectures on entrepreneurship and innovation management at the event.

Young Journalist Honored

Bridget DiCosmo, a crime and courts reporter for the Southeast Missourian and a former graduate assistant in the Innocence Institute at Point Park, received a Missouri Outstanding Young Journalist Award from the Missouri Press Association in Kansas City on October 17. DiCosmo has worked for the Southeast Missourian since 2007 and has been recognized by the Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors and the Suburban Newspapers of America. Jon Rust, publisher of the Southeast Missourian, said "she has a knack for displaying humanity within a story

and not just the dry facts. DiCosmo is the author of Serial Murder 101, a new book about a series of crimes in Cape Giradeau, Mo.

Student Actors Boost Cancer Research

Point Park musical theatre majors Maggie Carr and Justin Fortunato, along with Duquesne University major Bob Neumeyer, recently founded Carrnivale Theatrics, a group of music and theatre majors from local schools who are pooling their talent to raise money for charity. In their premiere production of Sweeney Todd, staged at the New Hazlett Theater last July, the group raised \$26,000 for the Pittsburgh affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The Sweeney Todd cast was comprised of 25 local university students. accompanied by a 15-person student orchestra. Carr directed and performed, and Fortunato played the title role of *Sweeney* Todd. Other Point Park students who participated in the production included Sarah Wagner, stage manager; Caila Ruggieri, technical director; Robert Clifton, wig and hair design; Steve Larussa, make-up design; and Rich Preffer, scenic artist.

New Dual Degree Combines Business and Communication

In the corporate world, there is growing interest in the interconnected role that good communications plays in the success of a company. Professionals who possess strength in both communications and business have a competitive advantage in today's corporate work place.

Preparing students to be these multitalented professionals is at the core of a new Point Park program in which students can obtain both an M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and an M.B.A. in as little as

two years of full-time coursework. Point Park is one of only six universities in the U. S. to offer such a dual degree in these key areas.

The curriculum has been designed primarily for students who are working in management and executive positions in public relations, advertising and marketing communications. Students complete 54 credits to earn both degrees and can take business and communications courses separately or simultaneously.

For **Aimee Cordero**, continuing her studies by pursuing her communication degree is the perfect opportunity to complement her M.B.A., which she received from Point Park in Spring 2009. "We do a lot of public relations in my company (the Academy Schools) and I hope to one day start a PR department," says Cordero.

"My M.B.A. will be helpful in these current economic times; the communications degree and its hands-on approach appeals to me as I learn how to do things the right way."

In the future, the curriculum will be expanded to include print and electronic media management/economics as well as business, financial and economics journalism.



Broadcaster-in-Residence Jan Getz (above left) led Point Park's broadcasting internship program in New York City last summer. Emily Berk (above right, and second from left below) interned at MTV. Other broadcasting majors who interned in the Big Apple included (below from left): Bianna Miller (ABC's The View); Sarah Phillips (VH1 News); and Sarah Pisciuneri (NY1 News).



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WTW Architects to Design

New Student and **Convocation Center**

By Cheryl Valyo Renderings: courtesy WTW



View of the new Student and Convocation Center from the Boulevard of the Allies.



A rear view of the new Student and Convocation Center.

Academic Village Initiative Moves Forward with New Project

s Point Park University continues to develop elements of its Academic Village Initiative, a \$244 million campus and public enhancement space plan, it has announced that WTW Architects will design the renovation of its new Student and Convocation Center.

"We are ready to take the next step forward in the development of The Academic Village at Point Park University," according to President Paul Hennigan. "We have selected WTW Architects of Pittsburgh," he added, "to design the renovation of 330 Boulevard of the Allies, as well as a 60,000 square-foot addition that will become our new Student and Convocation Center."

Construction of the Student and Convocation Center, a \$32 million project, should begin by the end of 2012.

A Vital, Sustainable Student Center

"While we've had the pleasure of designing award-winning student centers and other university projects across the nation, it's especially gratifying to be selected for such a vital project in our own backyard and in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh," said Richard De Young, president and chief executive officer of WTW Architects. "We are thrilled to play a role in Point Park University's significant revitalization of this key Downtown corridor."

"Our Student and Convocation Center," noted Hennigan, "will be a green-design friendly project, in keeping with our commitment to developing a sustainable plan for our urban campus. WTW, in fact, designed the nation's first Gold LEED Certified Student Union in the nation the University of Vermont's Dudley H. Davis Student Center, and has designed a number of LEED certified projects across the United States."

Currently home to the YMCA, 330 Boulevard of the Allies is a 115,000 squarefoot facility built in 1985, and acquired by Point Park in 2008. The new Student Union and Convocation Center will house a 1,000-seat varsity basketball arena that can convert to convocation space. The University's athletic department will be located there, as well as locker and training rooms for students and teams, fitness center and running track, bookstore, meeting rooms, dining services, and student activity spaces.

Blending Student Life Spaces

"We're seeing a trend in student centers in which there is a blend of student life spaces, mixing both student intramural activities with varsity sports, and other activities," said De Young. "It is a great opportunity to create a center for student involvement."

"WTW has really hit a home run. Their vision for this project is superb," says Elmer Burger, University architect. "The design is distinctive, yet still reflects the urban context. They've taken architectural cues from existing Point Park buildings and pulled those into the design for the Center."

For example, the complex will be linked on the street level to the new Boulevard Apartments and adjacent corner park, "which will tie the whole block together," says Burger. "In addition, the design features a green roof on the addition. This roof will be planted and accessible from an upper floor of the original building. It will basically be an elevated park."

As part of the renovation of the building, many large brick walls will be replaced by walls of glass that will flood the space with daylight and views. "Many people think that sustainability refers to saving energy, but there is a very large human factor involved," said Burger. "Sustainability also

means providing healthy environments for building occupants, and nothing is better for a human being than natural light. "

WTW has more than two decades of experience in designing effective student centers. Since 1983 the firm has completed over 90 student union projects across the country, including Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of California Irvine, and the University of Miami.

A Plan to Meet Campus Needs

The next phase of the design process for the Student and Convocation Center is known as program validation, said Burger. "Point Park previously conducted a survey of students, faculty and staff to gather input on the new Center, and the response of that survey helped us put together a program for the building. There will be discussions with stakeholders to ensure that the planned program is still valid in meeting the needs of the campus community." The schematic design phase will follow and is expected to be completed in early 2010.

"The Student and Convocation Center marks the next step in our \$244 million master plan to transform Point Park into one of the most dynamic private, urban universities in America," said Hennigan. "As we move forward with the development of the Academic Village, it reflects our continued commitment to creating a vibrant living, learning and community hub and the continued rebirth of Downtown Pittsburgh."





By Camille Downing

EARNING AN M.B.A. ON-SITE

The School of Business Takes Graduate Program into the Offices of Leading Corporations

n executive sits at his paper-covered desk, finishes up one last email, turns off his computer and prepares to leave for the day. Outside his window, he sees the gridlock of cars below. With a smile, he ambles down the hallway to a conference room that has been transformed into a makeshift classroom. Other executives from the company file in and sit down, as a professor enters the room, turns on a video camera, and begins to speak.

For many graduate students, such an easy commute from the office to the classroom is only a dream. But for M.B.A. students at U.S. Steel and GAI Consultants, Inc., a full-service engineering firm, this innovative approach to graduate education for working executives is now available through the School of Business. Point Park business professors have taken to the road, and to cyberspace, to bring the 36-credit M.B.A. program directly to corporations.

"As a University, we pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality education for our students in a way that fits their life and schedule," says School of Business Dean Angela Isaac. "We're pleased to offer a tailor-made program that focuses on these companies' specific academic needs and in a format that is most convenient for their employees."

In the past, Point Park has provided accelerated courses to other corporations in the area, such as offsite classes at Beaver Community College, according to George Bromall, professor and associate dean of external affairs for the School of Business. The focus of the new program is teaching graduate level students where they are physically located, whether in

corporate or remote offices, for optimum convenience. All courses also have the option of an on-line component, with connectivity provided by the company.

"This allows us to reach students who cannot come to campus, even on Saturdays," notes Bromall. "It's beneficial to the companies and to Point Park as we expand into further into the community."

The accelerated courses are held once a week for seven weeks, enabling students to graduate with their M.B.A. in two years. The students are enrolled in the same courses as those who attend on campus, according to Dimitris Kraniou, professor and director of the M.B.A. program. The instructors use the same syllabi, criteria, grading guidelines and procedures to ensure that the high academic standards affiliated with the program are not compromised.

At U.S. Steel, classes are taking place on-site at the corporate hub in the Duquesne Works. The U.S. Steel program's first session was held in May 2009. Classes began in September 2009 at the GAI corporate headquarters at the Waterfront in Homestead, a few miles from Downtown Pittsburgh.

For Gary DeJidas, GAI president and CEO, teaming up with Point Park was a natural fit. An alumnus and member of Point Park's Board of Trustees, DeJidas is a longtime advocate for the University and played a key role in the development of the new on-site programs.

Not one to talk the talk and not walk the walk, DeJidas was the first to enroll when the M.B.A. program was introduced at GAI. He and 13 other senior level managers spend Tuesday evenings in the classroom listening to a lecture that is simultaneously broadcast, via Webcast, to GAI offices in five different cities. Such flexibility allows students to attend classes no matter where they are physically located.

DeJidas, who splits his time between Pittsburgh and Orlando, is unable to devote the time and energy to attend traditional on-campus classes. For him, the remote Web-based classroom has been a lifesaver. In the first several weeks of class, he "attended" sessions in Orlando, Pittsburgh, Houston and Austin.

"One of my goals has always been to get my M.B.A., but work and family put that on hold for 40 years," quips DeJidas. "This is a wonderful opportunity that speaks to how education has changed. I applaud the University for taking the initiative to offer such a program."

The return to the classroom has been an interesting exercise in self-discipline and motivation for DeJidas. He admits that it's a challenge to focus on homework and studying for the fast-paced courses, but says the extra work is far outweighed by the benefits-for himself, his fellow students, and the company as a whole.

All of the senior level managers who are participating in the M.B.A. program at GAI have advanced degrees and have completed a Harvard Leadership series. "This is the crowning glory of what we are trying to do for our managers' career development," notes DeJidas. "It's exciting for all of us to learn together, and know that the future leaders of our company will come from this class."



offers two. The world premiere of *Time After Time* brings to Pittsburgh Broadway star Ann Reinking and actor/director Gabriel Barre for a new musical based on Stephen Cole's book and lyrics, with music by Jeffrey Saver.

Reinking choreographs *Time After Time*, running February 26 - March 14 at the Rockwell Theater in the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Winner of a Tony Award (for Best Choreography), Drama Desk Award and Bob Fosse Award, Reinking's credits include reprising the role of Roxie Hart in Chicago, Broadway's

Hot Ballroom. She also starred in the movie *Annie* and appeared in Bob Fosse's semi-autobiographical film All That Jazz, among many other roles.

Barre is directing several new projects including a musical adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers, and the new musical *All About Us* (based on the play *The* Skin of Our Teeth). Barre directed the Off-Broadway production of The Wild Party and the national tours of *Pippin* and Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. His extensive honors include a Tony

and a Bistro

Award as an original cast member in *Forever Plaid*. Barre directed a private reading of *Time After Time* last August in New York City.

After the reading, one audience member commented (on broadwayworld.com), "I'm planning to get [to the full production in Pittsburgh] by plane, train, automobile or time machine." Based on the novel of the same name by Karl Alexander, the romantic thriller involves time travel and intrigue. KDKA NewsRadio 1020 sponsors the production.

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY'S PITTSBURGH PLAYHOUSE





ON STAGE

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The REP

The Queens

By Normand Chaurette
Directed by Sheila McKenna
Choreographed by Andre Koslowski
November 20 - 22 & December 3 - 13, 2009

Inspired by Shakespeare's *Richard III*, this fantasy drama depicts a struggle for power and status as six queens vie for the throne.

Buried Child

By Sam Shepard
Directed by John Shepard
February 5 — 21, 2010

A Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about an American Midwestern family with a very dark secret.

A Confluence of Dreaming

By Tammy Ryan
Directed by John Amplas
May 28 — June 13, 2010

The compelling story of an underappreciated homemaker who finds herself questioning her life.

Conservatory Theatre Company

Room Service

By Allen Boretz and John Murray Directed by Rich Keitel January 22 – 31, 2010

A classic screwball comedy about the lengths some people will go for their art.

Time After Time A New Musical

Book & Lyrics by Stephen Cole
Music by Jeffrey Saver
Directed by Gabriel Barre
February 26 29 8 March 11 14 2

February 26 – 28 & March 11 - 14, 2010

Love and murder intersect in this original musical choreographed by Broadway legend Ann Reinking.

The Light in the Piazza

Book by Craig Lucas Music & Lyrics by Adam Guettel Directed by Scott Wise March 26 — April 3, 2010

Winner of six Tony Awards, this soaring musical is a tale of passion and romance set in alluring Italy.

Seussical

Music by Stephen Flaherty
Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen
Flaherty, and Eric Idle
Based on the Works of Dr. Seuss
May 7-9 / 15-16 / 22-23, 2010

A magical, musical extravaganza that brings to life all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters.

Conservatory Dance Company

The Bench

Conceived and choreographed
by Kiesha Lalama-White
Music by David Lalama, with guest artist and
Grammy Award-winner Ralph Lalama
December 11 – 13 & 18 – 20, 2009

An original multi-media dance experience that celebrates family and what makes us who we are.

Conservatory Dance Company at the Byham

February 11 – 13, 2010Byham Theater, Cultural District

Featuring works by Gerald Arpino, Doug Varone; David Parsons; and Daniel Ezralow.

Dance with Me April 9 – 11, 2010

A celebration of the creativity of some of Point Park's most accomplished dance faculty.

Playhouse Jr.

A Child's Christmas In Wales

Adapted by Jeremy Brooks and Adrian Mitchell Directed by Mark Staley December 11 - 20, 2009

Based on the classic by Dylan Thomas

(No evening performance on December 17)

This classic story chronicles the delight of Christmas Day, from its magical beginning to its captivating end.

The Dark Side of Zylo's Moon Written and Directed by Yoli May 7-9 / 15-16 / 22-23, 2010

A thrilling world premiere adventure that shows how those who really care can make a difference.

Point Park Welcomes New Full-Time Faculty

Seven new full-time faculty members have joined Point Park University for the 2009-2010 academic year:

Karen Dwyer, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of English in the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences. She comes to Point Park from St. Xavier University in Chicago, where she taught a variety of creative writing and English courses. Prior to that Dwyer was a faculty member in the Department of English at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She holds a Ph.D. in English and a master's degree in English from the University of Illinois, Chicago as well as a bachelor's degree in English and creative writing, with a concentration in photography, from Loyola College in Baltimore.

Tatyana Dumova, Ph.D. is an associate professor of digital media in the School of Communication. She has been an associate professor at Montclair State University, where she taught courses in new media applications and undergraduate courses in speech fundamentals, and an assistant professor in the School of Communication at the University of North Dakota, as well as a producer at WBGU-TV (PBS) in Bowling Green, Ohio. She earned her Ph.D. in communication studies and a master's degree in history/mass communication at Bowling Green State University and a bachelor's degree in English at Moscow State Linguistic University.

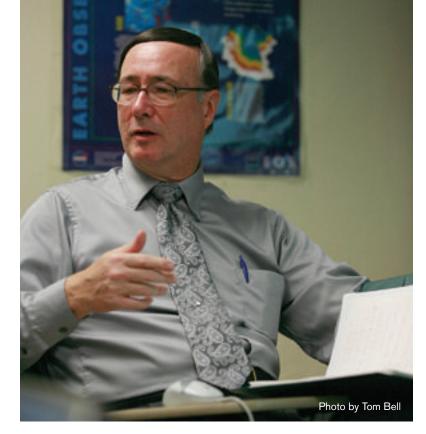
Richard Hawkins is an artist in residence in the Cinema and Digital Arts Department of the Conservatory of Performing Arts. Hawkins is an Emmy Award-winning screenwriter with more than two decades of experience in writing and executive producing successful television series. He comes to Point Park from Sony Pictures Television International, where he served as an executive consultant for international television. He holds a bachelor's degree in theatre arts from Centenary College of Louisiana and is completing a master's degree in psychology from Pepperdine University.

Kathy Horne is an artist in residence in the Cinema and Digital Arts Department in the Conservatory of Performing Arts. She most recently served as a senior editor at Bionic in New York City, where she edited and managed the production of high end promotional spots from such varied sources as dailies, entire episodes and movies. Her clients have included the Food Network, Nickelodeon, the Discovery Channel and Comedy Central. She earned her bachelor's degree in film studies and English/ creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh and completed advanced screenwriting coursework at The New School, and After Effects coursework at Parsons School of Design.

Robert Ross, Ph.D. is assistant professor of global cultural studies in the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences. He has been a faculty member and researcher in the Department of Geography at Syracuse University and as a visiting assistant professor at the American University of Beirut. Prior to that he was the Frederick Douglass Scholar, and a faculty member, at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He earned his Ph.D. at Syracuse University, a master's degree at University College in London, and a bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Megan Ward, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of English in the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences. She comes to Point Park from Lawrence University, where she served as a visiting assistant professor. Ward has also served as a faculty member at Rutgers University. She earned her Ph.D. and a master's degree, at Rutgers and a M.Phil in English Literature at the University of Oxford. She received a bachelor's degree in English at Lawrence University.

Shubh Mathur, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of global cultural studies in the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences. She has been a faculty member at such institutions as Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Franklin Pierce University, Connecticut College and the City University of New York. She earned her Ph.D. and a master's degree in anthropology at the New School for Social Research in New York, and a master's degree in sociology and social anthropology, as well as a bachelor's degree in history, at the University of Delhi in India.



Mark Farrell, Ph.D., is professor of chemistry and chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering. He teaches an evening graduate course in environmental studies at Point Park.

Introducing Three New Master's Degrees

Point Park University has initiated three new graduate programs:

Master of Education in Teaching and Leadership, Master of Education Program Leading to Secondary Certification, and Master of Science in Environmental Studies. Enrollment in the new programs began in the Fall 2009 term.

"The Pennsylvania Department of Education approval for these new programs followed months of hard work on the part of faculty in the Natural Sciences & Technology and Education Departments and other administrative offices of the University," said Karen McIntyre, vice provost at Point Park. According to McIntyre, the new graduate programs offer coursework in an evening/Saturday format and can easily be completed by working adults in a timely manner.

The Master of Education in Teaching and Leadership

The Master of Education in Teaching and Leadership is a 30-credit program designed for educators and others who want to

participate in collaborative efforts to design classrooms and schools for the twentyfirst century. This program is also ideal for current teachers who need to earn the 24 additional credits to attain an Instructional II certificate while working on a master's degree. Classes are conveniently scheduled primarily on Saturdays and some evenings.

The Master of Education Program Leading to Secondary Certification

The Master of Education Program Leading to Secondary Certification is a 42-credit program designed for students who hold a baccalaureate in the content area or related field and seek initial secondary certification (grades 7-12) in biology, citizenship, communications, English or mathematics. The program delivers a solid theoretical framework based on current educational field research, with extensive opportunities for direct classroom applications which address the challenges and opportunities faced by current educators.

The Master of Science in **Environmental Studies**

The Master of Science in Environmental Studies is a 30-credit interdisciplinary program intended to provide students with an understanding of the complex nature of environmental problems and solutions. The goal of the program, which incorporates scientific, economic, political, legal and ethical points of view, is to train professionals who will be involved in seeking solutions to environmental problems. Courses in the program are offered in an accelerated format. With classes being held Monday and Wednesday evenings in a seven-week session, it's possible to complete the program in just eleven months while still working full-time. Candidates for the Master of Science in Environmental Studies program should have a bachelor of science in fields such as science, engineering, engineering technology, business, communication, or the human sciences. A prerequisite of the program is six to nine credits of university-level science coursework.

Innovative Leaders Join Deans List at Point Park

By Camille Downing

fter extensive national searches, Point Park has added two new deans to its ranks. Both bring with them a vision of growth and opportunity that will help lead the University into the future. The School of Business and School of Communication are linked together by a new program in which students can obtain both an M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication and an M.B.A. in as little as two years of fulltime coursework. Point Park is one of only six universities in the nation to offer such a dual degree in these key areas.

Angela Hardy Isaac, Ph.D. **School of Business**

As the new Dean of the School of Business, Angela Hardy Isaac, Ph.D., offers a unique blend of academics and corporate finance as she seeks to prepare students for their journey in the business world post-college. Most recently the Senior Vice President of Operational Risk and Oversight and Interim Head of Market Risk Oversight at Fannie Mae in Washington, DC, Dr. Isaac has been intimately involved in the ups and downs of corporate finance for the past 20 years. This insight and experience has led her to a professional understanding that she plans to use extensively in her role as dean.

A faculty member at several New York universities for 10 years postgraduate school, Isaac received a doctor of philosophy in finance and economics and a master of arts in applied economics from State University of New York; and a master of business administration and a bachelor of arts in political philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1987, she joined the corporate world and found herself immediately immersed in risk management. Since that time, she has held numerous executive positions at leading financial institutions.

Through it all, Isaac always had a longing to return to academics where her professional experience could benefit students as she exposed them to realities of the business world. At Point Park, she has been given that opportunity.

"It's unusual for someone with corporate experience to become a dean," explains Isaac. "Most universities look for someone with more academic research experience. But I have a good understanding of what students need to know as they walk out the door of the university."

As a past advisor to universities on risk management and finance curriculums, Isaac stresses the importance of providing Point Park students with exposure to not just corporate business but also public administration, nonprofits, single ownership and other types of organizations.

Since coming on board in July, Isaac has been meeting with faculty and staff as well as corporate leaders to learn more about the challenges and opportunities available at the School of Business. One goal is to expand corporate relationships and strengthen partnerships in the community to bring the business expertise of executives on campus.

Most importantly, Isaac's vision for the School focuses most on the students.



"I believe in lifelong learning for students who come to Point Park," notes Isaac. "The goal is to structure our programs and interactions to provide a learning community that students can turn to throughout their professional careers. In other words, Point Park University is an excellent *lifetime* investment!"

Tim Hudson, Ph.D. School of Communication

Newspapers collapsing. Social media rising. An increased focus on global communications. The modern media and communication landscape is in a constant state of change, which poses an enormous challenge to any professional in today's workforce.

As the first dean of the new School of Communication, Tim Hudson, Ph.D., is focusing on building the academic quality of the innovative programs already in place in the School, with an emphasis on preparing students for an ever-changing communication profession.

"Traditional mass media are being transformed by new technologies barely imagined a generation ago," says Dr. Hudson. "The ways in which we communicate have changed at a dizzying pace in recent years, and yet the new world of interactive communication is still in its infancy.

Point Park's programs are designed to prepare the communication graduate for 'whatever comes next' in the industries, and for lifelong learning in the fast-paced world of the communication professional."

At the heart of his vision is the School of Communication faculty, who he believes can assume a proactive role exploring and developing answers to the challenges currently faced by the media industries and communication education. Through his newly established Future Media Projects initiative, Hudson is encouraging faculty-generated projects in three key areas: instruction in the classroom. academic research and/or creative activity, and service within the community. These proposed projects will involve Point Park students through partnerships in and around Pittsburgh.

"All three areas have a common goal that focuses not just on academics, but also on new and different ways we can respond to the future needs of the industry and our students," notes Hudson.

Such innovative approaches to developing the School of Communication are familiar territory for Hudson, who most recently served as the founding director of the School of Communication for East Carolina University in Greenville,

N.C. While there, he was successful in implementing the first graduate degree program in health communication and designed an international media management graduate degree program. He also served as a full professor and director of journalism and mass communication. His background includes teaching and administrative experience at the University of Oklahoma and Elizabethtown College in eastern Pennsylvania.

A strong advocate for combining traditional academics with practical experience, Hudson has spent his career firmly planted in both areas. He earned a doctor of philosophy in mass communication from Temple University and a master of arts and bachelor's degree in theatre and communication from Eastern New Mexico University. He has remained involved with professional projects through various fellowships and is active in numerous professional associations.



Point: Did you start PittsburghMom.com mainly as a way to connect with other moms, or for its business potential?

Fiedler: Well, I started it because of the lists, which now provide a way for people to find family-friendly options in Pittsburgh all in one place. I've studied social media and the idea of hyperlocal and niche media, so I built the directories and grouped everything by area. I knew that I needed something to keep people coming back, a social component. So I added the message board for people to chat

about family things as well as blogs, to talk about my life and things other moms are thinking about too. PittsburghMom.com has turned out to be a great resource for not only parents but local businesses as well.

Point: Do you teach your students about lessons learned along the way?

Fiedler: I was already teaching the technical side of creating websites. In online journalism we cover a bit of everything—

creating and editing video, blogging, writing, interactive design. Classes also focus on how to market a Web site, how businesses advertise on social media, how to use Facebook and Twitter to promote a blog, etc. Students might become writers, stringers for newspapers, photographers or freelancers. For them to learn how to create a good site or blog and how to promote themselves through social networks is valuable. I enjoy seeing students finding a love for digital technology and learning how to use it well.

Point: What are some of your favorite Web sites?

Fiedler: I pay close attention to a blogger for poynter.org, Jim Romanesko, who writes about the state of journalism. And I read mashable.com, which covers what's going on in the world of technology and social media. If Facebook and Twitter merge, they'll have it there first. Another site I follow closely is the LasVegasSun.com, which has an innovative approach to online news, including geotagging all content. Rob Curley is a new media guru, particularly related to hyperlocal, which today means not only geographic areas but also niche audiences. These are just a few of the sites and blogs I read, and have my students read, along with traditional news outlets.

Point: How do you teach students about digital media ethics?

Fiedler: Point Park offers a media ethics course, and I talk about ethics in everything we do. When a student uploaded a photo from a newspaper to her blog without attribution, we talked about why that's unethical and a copyright violation. They learn why they must seek permission and often pay for use because they are infringing on another

person's business. On PittsburghMom.com, I never use photos without permission, and I post just a bit of content and link back to the original article. That's acceptable in blogging circles, where so much of what the blogging world is doing now is aggregating news into one location. If we could never link to somebody else's stuff or write about it, [bloggers] wouldn't have the interaction that we have. People are generally okay with a small amount of content and links. It gives them hits they wouldn't

Dr. Heather Starr Fiedler, assistant professor of digital media, specializes in new and emerging media technology, particularly online journalism. She continues her "love affair with the Web" in her other role, founder and general manager of PittsburghMom.com, a Web site for parents now owned by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Fielder was named one of "40 Under 40" for 2009 by Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP. Selected from among nearly 300 nominees, the honorees are chosen for their commitment and overall impact on the region. The Point talked with Fiedler about digital and social media and more.

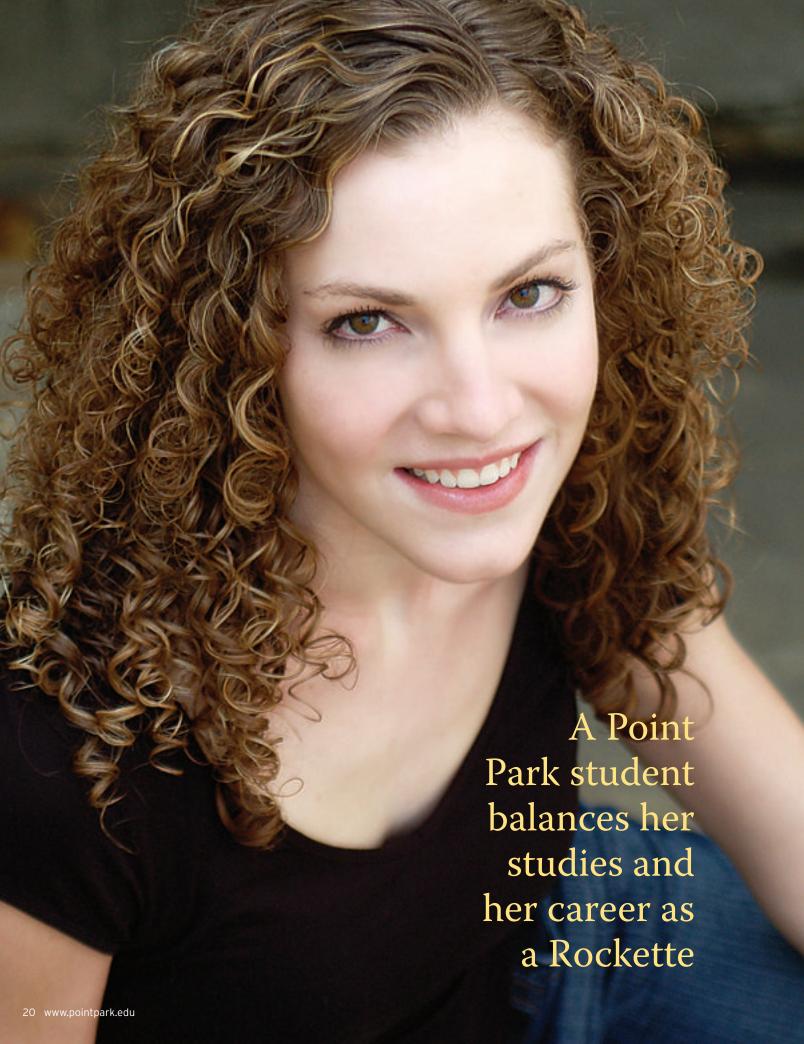
otherwise have. But if someone posts a whole article with the reader never having to go back to source, that's wrong. I tell my students, when in doubt link instead of paste.

Point: What's ahead for you at Point Park?

Fiedler: We've been talking about creating workshops for professionals, including journalists, to build their digital media skills. I'd also like to start a student chapter of the Online News Association. After 10 years of advising The Globe, I plan to step back from the advising the print side and help the student newspaper create more online content, adding interactive features and cool multimedia stuff, videos, podcasting and more Web extras. For The Pioneer, [the newsmagazine created by students in Publications Production 1 and 2], we are aiming to [develop it into] a magazine of downtown Pittsburgh, featuring articles about living in the city, small businesses and profiles of people living here.

Point: What advice can you offer those who are apprehensive about social media or are just getting started?

Fiedler: I think everyone should be using social media, whether for personal or professional reasons. I know it helps keep people in touch with family and friends. My brother recently spent five weeks in China on business. He called me on Skype to wish me a happy birthday. This isn't social media, but an example of something that wouldn't have been possible before the Web. My advice? Just get on and play with social media. You have to be willing to teach yourself. Just dive in. My favorite quote about the new digital world is that old media was a lecture, and new media is a conversation.





From Classrooms to Kick Lines

By Kate Beard Miller

very holiday season, millions of aspiring dancers attend performances by the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. With every precise kick, the glittering costumes and lavish sets, it's no wonder that a young dancer would leave the theater with the dream of growing up and becoming a Rockette.

When Erin Harold, senior dance major, saw her first show with her parents in Cleveland, she left the theater with the determination to make her dream happen. On that two-hour car ride home to Stoneboro, Pa., Erin was dizzy with excitement after watching the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*.

"You know what's really funny, I was this little middleschooler watching the show, wanting to be a Rockette, and now I'm actually dancing with a girl who was onstage performing at that time," she said.

Considering the thousands of dancers who audition each year, Erin is one of an elite minority to experience the extraordinary rush of making it through the callbacks and signing a contract. She is now in her second season on the Pittsburgh/Seattle tour of *Christmas Across America*.

"It's amazing just because it's so challenging to get a spot like that," said Erin. "The fact that I've been able to achieve that, and that it's something I love to do, has been really great."

By taking a leave of absence from her studies at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, Erin has been able to tour with the show during the fall semester and catch up on her course requirements during spring and summer semesters. She also holds a work-study position in the Office of Graduate and Adult Enrollment.

Erin's dedication to her studies and dance career has been a good primer for the rigors of becoming a Rockette. The show's rehearsal and performance schedule is intense, not to mention the physical demands of the two-hour cardio show with hundreds of kicks. After a month of 12-hour days rehearsing in Myrtle Beach, the Pittsburgh/ Seattle cast opened at the Benedum Center in Downtown Pittsburgh on Nov. 12.

However, Erin has mixed feelings about performing in Pittsburgh. While it has been very convenient for her

family and friends to come and see the show, Erin has had little time away from her performance schedule. The Rockettes performed 51 shows in Pittsburgh between Nov. 12 and Dec. 6, with as many as four shows in one day.

"On a typical weekend during the season, you're at the theater from 8:30 in the morning to do your hair and make-up, visit the trainer, get warmed up and do the show," she said. "There is usually an hour or an hour and a half between the shows and they cater for us, so you eat really quickly, take a nap and then refresh and re-stretch, and that repeats until about 10 or 10:30 at night, so it's a long day."

During rehearsals and on tour, the Rockettes stay in hotel suites with private bedrooms, bathrooms and a shared kitchen. The tour ends in Seattle on Jan. 3 and Erin will jump right back into her studies at Point Park. She's hoping to graduate on time in the spring.

Erin's journey as a dancer at Point Park started several years before her freshman year because she attended the University's International Summer Dance program as a high school student.

"When it came down to it, I realized that Point Park offers more of a variety than other universities, especially in jazz. Most other schools focused on ballet or modern and I feel that you need to be more well-rounded," she said. "Plus it's a liberal arts college, so not only am I getting dance classes, but I'm also getting academics, which has always been important to me. So if I ever get into another field after dance, I have something to get me started," she said.

Erin also attended and eventually assisted with the Rockette Summer Intensive Program, previously held on Point Park's campus.

"Erin is a very professional young lady, and she took everything that she learned from that program and kept applying it. I think that propelled her forward to becoming a Rockette," said Eileen Grace (COPA 1981), director of the Rockette Summer Intensive Program and past director of various tours of the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. "Right away, I saw definite Rockette potential in her."



supporting students through scholarship opportunities

By Colleen C. Derda

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, Point Park University's Annual Fund for Student Success is providing new scholarship opportunities for students. Gifts to the Fund support student resources and scholarships, including direct assistance to students facing financial difficulties caused by economic conditions or family health issues.

The Annual Fund for Student Success allows the University to provide critical assistance, says Karen McIntyre, vice provost and dean of faculty.

"We know that during the course of their college experience, students can sometimes face unpredictable circumstances in their families and finances," says McIntyre. "Our alumni and friends are very generous in supporting students by providing annual gifts to Point Park. Our goal is to ensure that students who have chosen Point Park and want to continue their education here will be able to do so."

The University solicits gifts for the recently restructured Fund through fall and spring phonathons, a faculty/staff campaign, direct

mailings and online giving, according to Maria Villiotti (COM 1999), manager of annual giving. The effort continues all year, she says, to meet the great need and increase giving opportunities for donors.

"The faculty/staff campaign alone has doubled support over the last few years," says Villiotti.

The Annual Fund for Student Success supports both financial-based and academic-based scholarships.

"The student requests are very personal and very difficult," says Betty Davis, senior director of student financial services. "Generally speaking, new requests are due to family health issues and the current downturn in the economic cycle affecting family jobs and college savings. In these cases, the extra funds provide critical assistance and help keep dreams on track."

Tax-deductible gifts to Point Park University's Annual Fund for Student Success demonstrate that those who share our past believe in our future. Make an online gift today at www.pointpark.edu.

Alumni Profile

Douglas Anderson

Health Care Reform Advocate Helps Cities Prepare for Disasters and Emergencies

By Tammi Kaufman

oint Park alumnus Douglas M. Anderson is in the unique position to be able to utilize his diverse career experiences and expertise to help our nation's citizens with some very timely issues: disaster preparedness and health care affordability.

Even before his retirement in January of 2009, Anderson was receiving offers to work with various organizations looking for his expertise. This prompted Anderson to start his own company, Douglas M. Anderson LLC, which has been contracted by the League of Cities to provide disaster preparedness training to public officials across the nation. He is also working with non-profit groups in Florida to build a health clinic in St. Lucie County for people without insurance. He is hoping the clinic will be a model for the nation.

After graduating from Point Park with a business management degree in 1970, Anderson began his career in manufacturing at AVM Corporation in his hometown of Jamestown, N.Y. In 1977, he became the director of fiscal affairs at Jamestown General Hospital, where he also oversaw hospital's outpatient clinic. Later he became the finance director for the city of Jamestown until 1990, when he moved to Florida and became the county administrator for Clay County, then St. Lucie County in 1995.

One of Anderson's greatest career challenges came during the course of the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005. As County Administrator, Anderson was responsible for coordinating emergency response in St. Lucie County. "Within three weeks of one another we had two direct hits (from hurricanes Frances and Jeanne) which brought the county to its knees," recalled Anderson. "It was a very trying time." One year later, the same area was hit hard again by



Photo credit: Eric Hasert/Scripps.com

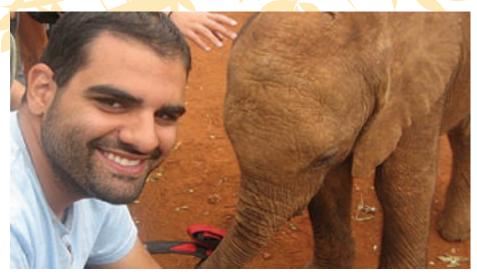
Hurricane Wilma. The hurricanes caused massive flooding and power outages, requiring Anderson and his team to spend weeks cramped in the county's illequipped Emergency Operations Center in the midst of generally miserable conditions.

His leadership during that difficult period led the county to dedicate a new, state-of-the-art emergency operations center, named in his honor, in June of 2009. The Douglas M. Anderson Emergency Operations Center is four times the size of the old center and is home to the county's radiological, animal control, 911 and marine safety operations.

When Anderson reflects on his student years at Point Park, he fondly remembers the professors and classes that he says gave him his start. "I would have never, ever had this opportunity if it hadn't been for the education I received from Point Park," said Anderson. "What I learned there, I have never forgotten."

By Cheryl Valyo

Education Major Learns Life Lessons as Volunteer Teacher for Kenyan Orphans



Mike Suppa visits a baby elephant sanctuary in Kenya.

V/hen Michael Suppa decided to spend part of his summer vacation in Kenya, teaching children who had been abandoned as a result of HIV/AIDS, he took the first step on a life-changing journey.

The Point Park elementary education major says he became intrigued by the story of Hekima Place, a boarding school in Kenya's Southern Rift Valley that provides a stable home and education for girls who have been orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS. Founded by Pittsburgher Kate Fletcher, the school is supported by donations, including the efforts of volunteer teachers.

Before coming to Hekima, many of the girls had spent time in other homes where mistreatment and rape were common. Hekima's mission is to provide a chance to mature and learn in a place of safety and love. "It is inspiring that Ms. Fletcher made so many sacrifices, including selling everything she owned, to move to Africa to help these girls," says Suppa. "It was an opportunity to be part of that."

Suppa spent five weeks last July and August living at the orphanage as a volunteer teacher. He spent most of his time helping third graders learn such subjects as math, science, social studies, French and English. "My main role was to provide reinforcement of English, which for most is their third language and very difficult to learn." It was an eye-opening experience. Electricity is rarely used and school materials are in short supply. Students were thrilled when he brought in some rubber erasers, for example. In spite of the challenges, he says, they love learning.

"I appreciated the time we spent getting to know the girls and their stories," recalls Suppa. "For example, many had watched their own mothers die. Others had been raped at other orphanages before coming to Hekima. Their stories are very compelling."

Before returning to Pittsburgh, Suppa had the opportunity to experience other aspects of African life, such as a memorable visit to a baby elephant sanctuary and a giraffe center.

He also participated in a three-day safari and visited the city of Mombasa. But his most enduring memory, he says, was the privilege of teaching the girls of Hekima Place.

"I am so fortunate to have had this experience," says Suppa, who is a member of the Green and Gold Society, the Future Educators of America, and the College Now mentoring program at Point Park. A former volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Suppa has been invited by various University faculty members to speak about his experiences.

"I spent 14 years at private elementary and high schools, and I now realize how sheltered I was from what is going on the other side of the world," says Suppa. "I have a whole new perspective now."



Suppa and students at Hekima Place in Kenya.

ESPECIALLY FOR ALUMNI



Dear Fellow Alumni,

We're proud to announce that alumni now have an opportunity to help prospective students through the new Pioneer Alumni Recruitment Team (PART) program. This program connects alumni with prospective students in a variety of ways. For example, alumni attend college fairs with admissions personnel, where they meet students and encourage them to apply to Point Park. The program was launched with the help of more than 40 Pennsylvania alumni in the Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre and Philadelphia regions. Eventually we hope to expand the program to other states and cities. The Alumni Board also interviewed and selected 10 new members for the Green & Gold Society.

We're also excited to help celebrate the University's 50th anniversary in 2010. Next September, the Alumni Office will host an anniversary celebration that will include school events, reunions, a dinner, and many other activities. Stay tuned for details. You're invited to share your memories and ideas! Write to us at the Office of Alumni Relations, 201 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1984, or email alumni@pointpark.edu. And don't forget to share your news in a Class Note. Visit www.pointpark.edu/classnote. And thanks for keeping in touch.

John Taormina (A&S 2000, MBA 2001) President, Alumni Association Board of Directors



TEARS YOUNG

Point Park Marks 50th Anniversary in 2010

By Cheryl Valyo

he year was 1960. The small business training school Dorothy and L. Herbert Finkelhor founded in 1933 had grown to more than 800 students, moved into the building now known as Academic Hall, and officially became Point Park Junior College.

The rest is history, as the saying goes. Programs were soon added in engineering technology, education and journalism. Within five years the junior college was named Point Park College, and began awarding bachelor's degrees. Dance and theatre programs were introduced, forming the foundation for the Conservatory of Performing Arts. The first graduate program (in journalism and mass communication) was established in 1981. And after weathering a difficult period of uncertainty in the 1990s, Point Park emerged to implement a new strategic plan and dramatically boost enrollment. University status was achieved in 2004, and today Point Park University's four schools enroll

more than 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students from 45 states and 41 countries.

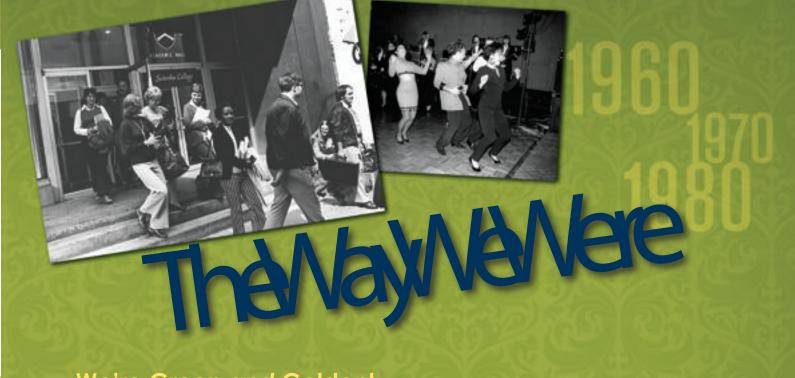
After five decades of highs and some lows, bound together by the hard work and shared memories of generations of students, faculty and staff, the University has much to celebrate. The entire Point Park community is invited to help plan a 50th anniversary to remember.

A Milestone to Celebrate

"This is a very exciting time for Point Park," says John Pine, manager of alumni relations. "Many people don't even realize that we're 50 years old. We're still viewed as a very young college. And while other institutions of higher education may have been around a lot longer, this is a milestone for us and we're very proud of it. Through everything our University has been through, from the good times to the not-so-good times, we're still here, we're stronger than ever, and we're ready to celebrate!"

The University is making plans to mark the 50th anniversary throughout 2010. Campus focus groups, including faculty and staff, students and employees who have been at Point Park for more than two decades, have gathered to contribute ideas for celebrating the occasion throughout the year.

The Alumni Office is planning a 50th Anniversary celebration for September 24-26, 2010. Hundreds of alumni will join together with friends, colleagues and former faculty at events such as a 50th anniversary dinner, school gatherings, and reunions of student groups, including media organizations, athletics, residence life, SOUL and the Black Student Union. You won't want to miss it! Stay tuned to our Web site at www.pointpark.edu/Alumni for upcoming details, and visit our page at www.facebook.com (look for "Point Park University Alumni").



We're Green and Golden!

September 24-26, 2010!

From the 1960s to the 1970s, from the 1980s to the 1990s—and beyond. No matter which decade holds your Point Park memories, we want you to help us plan a 50th anniversary celebration to remember.

It's time to show our Point Park pride! Share your campus reminiscences, stories and ideas with us at alumni@pointpark.edu. Stay tuned to our Web site at www.pointpark.edu/Alumni, and "Point Park University Alumni" on www.facebook.com, for upcoming details about our big 50th anniversary celebration on



class notes

Rob Ashford (COPA 1983) won a 2009 Emmy Award for Outstanding Choreography from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his Musicals Are Back opening number at The 81st Annual Academy Awards. The Emmy Awards were presented on September 20 at the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles.

Thomas M. Petro (BUS 1990),



president and chief executive officer of Fox Chase Bank, has been elected to the Pennsylvania Bankers Board of Directors. Petro was appointed the second vice chairman of the

Board. Petro has been president and CEO of the Hatboro, Pa.-based Fox Chase Bank since 2005. Before that, he led the turnaround, as president and CEO, of Northeast Pennsylvania Financial Corp. and its principal subsidiary, First Federal Bank in Hazelton, Pa. Petro also served as executive vice president of the Bryn Mawr Trust Company, president of the Bryn Mawr Brokerage Company, and chairman of Bryn Mawr Asset Management. He began his career with Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

Richard J. Conwell (A&S 1970)

has earned a doctorate in business administration (D.B.A.) with a concentration in health services administration from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Conwell's dissertation, Retention by the U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps and Civilian Healthcare Executives: A Generational Study of the Relationship of Ethical Values to Organizational Commitment, examined the aspect of retention of healthcare executives in both a military and civilian environment and the relationship of ethical values to commitment in these respective organizational entities. In addition to an

associate's degree in liberal arts from Point Park, Conwell has earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in industrial relations and personnel administration from Saint Francis University, and a master of public management degree from Carnegie Mellon University. A Provider Relations Specialist with Highmark, Inc., Conwell has been honored with the Jefferson Award for Public Service in recognition of his volunteer activities in western Pennsylvania.

Beverly Edwards (COPA 1983) is the company manager for a Donmar Warehouse production of William Shakespeare's Hamlet, starring Jude Law. After an opening run in London's West End, and a special engagement at Elsinor Castle in Denmark, the production moved to Broadway's Broadhurst Theatre in New York City in September, where it runs through December 6.

Tim Estiloz (COM 1982) received two TIME 2009 New England Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Estiloz's work was recognized with awards for "Outstanding On-Camera Host" and "Outstanding Arts and Entertainment Program."

Yvonne Potts Hudson (COM and A&S 1975) has joined the Harbour School in Maryland as director of development. She manages fundraising, events and public relations for the school, which provides special education to 200 students at its Annapolis and Baltimore campuses. Hudson also completed docent training at the Folger Shakespeare Library on Capitol Hill and presented her solo show, Mrs. Shakespeare, during the Folger's annual Shakespeare's Birthday celebration.



Keefer (COM 2002)

is the founder of Mamma Mia, a blog that covers news related to kids and parenting in central Florida, Mamma Mia was voted best local parenting blog in Orlando as part of Nickleodeon's "Parents Picks" competition. Visit Keefer's blog at: www.mammamiaflblog.blogspot.com.

Andy Lisiecki (A&S 2007) became police chief in Green Tree Borough in March, 2009, Raised in the Knoxville section of Pittsburgh, Lisiecki's father Anthony served as a police officer in Mt. Oliver. Lisiecki earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Point Park and previously served as a city paramedic and Pittsburgh police lieutenant.

Ayanna M. Lee, Esq. (A&S 2000) has joined Carpenter Legal Search, Inc., an attorney search firm in Pittsburgh, as a legal search consultant. Lee was previously an associate at Reed Smith LLP in Pittsburgh.

Eric McGilloway (COPA 1998) is the new motion graphics designer on The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien on NBC television in Los Angeles. McGilloway is employed by ELM Creative.

Susan Mitchell (COPA 1987) has introduced a new technique for overall wellness and healing in a new book, The Tao of Movement, self-published

by Xlibris. The book explores the proper use of breathing, spinal awareness and energy balance and cultivation. According to Mitchell, the technique can improve the understanding and use of one's own body, and benefit everyone from professional athletes to people with special needs. Mitchell spent years as a professional dancer and performed in two ballet companies and in musical theater before opening her own Pilates studio.

Jamie Erin Murphy (COPA 2007) choreographed the new opera [gravity + grace], a one-hour contemporary work that conveys, through modern dance, skits, monologues and operatic vignettes, some of the difficulties faced by those with Parkinson's Disease. The opera made its world premiere last September at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts in Fox Chapel. Proceeds benefited the Parkinson Foundation of Western Pennsylvania.

Justin Myles (COPA 2005) has spent the past two years as a full-time cast member of the international touring production of *Stomp*, a percussion and dance spectacular now in its 16th season. *Stomp's* best-known routines combine comic dance with music played on trashcans and lids. Myles, who returned to Pittsburgh in September for an eight-performance run of *Stomp* at

Justin Myles (center) in Stomp

the Benedum Center, told the Pittsburgh Tribune Review that Point Park "definitely geared me up for stage performance. They have such an incredible curriculum and give you a great opportunity to perform on a monthly basis. College definitely made me a better, more well-rounded dancer. It prepared me mentally and physically for what to expect in the real world of entertainment." Myles also writes music and has a new album, *This Genre*, on iTunes. For more information, visit www. justinmyles.net.

Antoinette Putorti-Howe (COPA and A&S 1994) was married to David Howe on June 13, 2009. The wedding was held on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Antoinette's Conservatory of Performing Arts friend Diane Sunderlin was maid of honor. Antoinette is a stepmother of two children: Kayla Howe, 14, and Josh Howe, 12. The family is living on Cape Cod.

Brad Soroka (COM 2008) is a reporter/anchor for Fox UP TV in Michigan's Upper Peninsula region. He reports the news and serves as anchor for a new live program that features a blended news and talk format. A Pittsburgh native, Soroka has also been a reporter for the NBC-affiliated station TV 6 News in Upper Michigan. During his student years, he

hosted a talk show with the University president, a sports talk segment at Primanti Bros. restaurant, and he reported for *Point News Now.*

Karen Ambrose Tomcik (A&S 1994) has been named assistant company manager for Criss Angel *Believe* by *Cirque du Soleil* in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tomcik joined *Cirque du Soleil's* Las Vegas Resident Shows Division as a publicist for shows *Mystere* and *KA* in August 2006 before being promoted to company manager in August 2009.

Alumni Illuminate 2009 Tony Awards

everal Conservatory of Performing Arts alumni performed at the 2009 Tony Awards on June 7 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Rob Ashford, (COPA 1983) a Tonywinning Broadway director and choreographer, choreographed the opening number. Mike Cannon, (COPA 2000) and Eric Hatch (COPA 2009) performed in West Side Story, which had four nominations at this year's Tony Awards. Cannon plays the role of Snowboy and understudy to Riff and Tony; Hatch plays Big Deal and understudy to Action. Marty Lawson (COPA 2000) performed in the ensemble of Shrek the Musical, which was nominated for eight Tonys, including Best Musical. Anthony Hollock, a 2006 theatre graduate, performed in Hair, which won the Tony for Best Revival of a Musical. Stephen Hanna, who plays Billy's Older Self in Billy Elliot The Musical, was a three time International Summer Dance participant and scholarship recipient. Billy Elliot won the Tony for Best Musical this year.



In Memoriam

Marsha Alico Horrel (A&S 1970), passed away on July 3, 2009 after a long battle with lung cancer. She earned her degree in elementary education at Point Park and went on to serve as a teacher, primarily third grade, for 34 years in the Apollo Ridge School System.

DROP US A NOTE!

Visit www.pointpark.edu/ classnote to share your news.



A group of former Point Park baseball players from the 1990s were among the forty baseball alumni who gathered Oct. 17 at the Greentree SportsPlex for a Baseball Alumni Reunion Game. The event, which was a collaboration between the Athletic Department and the Office of Alumni Relations, also included a dinner reception at Primetime Sports Bar and Grill in Robinson, Pa. Photo by Murphy Moschetta, Point Park athletics.



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Alumni Volunteers Play Key PART in Student Recruitment



By Tammi Kaufman



Alumna and PART volunteer Joanne Cicchinelli spoke with prospective students about her own Point Park experience at a College Fair at Blackhawk High School in Beaver, Pa. last October. Photos by Jim Judkis

lumni now have an opportunity to help prospective students, and give back to the University at the same time, through the new Pioneer Alumni Recruitment Team (PART) program.

The program connects alumni with prospective students in various ways to assist with recruitment. For example, alumni can attend college fairs with admissions personnel, where they can meet with students and encourage them to apply to Point Park. After students are academically accepted, alumni can call or email students to share their own personal experiences and successes.

"The program provides another level of communication, in addition to what the prospective student receives from the University's Admissions Office," said Kelly Clawson, associate manager of alumni relations.

The program was launched with the help of alumni living in the Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre and Philadelphia regions. Forty Pennsylvania alumni have volunteered to participate. Clawson said the alumni office will work with these volunteers over the next year to further develop the program before planning PART activities for alumni and prospective students living in other parts of the country.

Alumna Joanne Cicchinelli, who earned degrees in dance and business management in 1988, volunteered for the PART program and is eager to make connections with prospective students. "I'm excited about the growth of Point Park, and thrilled to be in PART because it offers a way to give back to the University that helped me embark on my career," said Cicchinelli.

"As a business owner of a dance studio, I was able to apply both of my degrees to achieve my goals. I'm looking forward to being able to give prospective students first-hand information about my experience at Point Park. I wish I'd had somebody, when I was [that age], to share that kind of information."

The Alumni Office aims to eventually include mentoring opportunities in the program, which will enable students to "job shadow" and gather career advice from alumni. In addition, according to Clawson, an online component for the program will eventually be developed to enable students to connect with alumni through discussion board conversations.

"I'm excited about the growth of Point Park, and thrilled to be in PART because it offers a way to give back to the University that helped me embark on my career," said Cicchinelli.

Interested in playing your PART? Contact Kelly Clawson at 412-392-4204.

Point Park Golf Teams Hit The Links

By Kevin Taylor



Head Golf Coach Gabe Bubon

Photo by Jack Megaw, Point Park Photojournalism major. For the first time in nearly four decades, Point Park University is sponsoring golf as a varsity sport.

The Point Park athletic department announced its plans in June to field a men's golf team and a women's golf team beginning in the fall 2009.

Gabe Bubon was named the head coach of both the men's and women's teams. With a little more than two months to put together his teams before the fall semester, Bubon had a lot to do in a short period of time.

"The first things to do were to locate golfers and find a home course," said Bubon. "Other tasks included getting equipment and creating a schedule for practices and tournaments. Certainly there was a lot that needed to be done."

But when the fall semester arrived, everything was in place, and the Pioneers were ready to hit the links. Point Park had a brief history of men's golf in the late 1960s, but it is sponsoring women's golf for the first time.

At the start of the fall semester, the men's team had 10 members and the women's team had five. Also, the Pioneers secured Quicksilver Golf Club in Midway, Pa., as their home course.

Quicksilver has hosted several events on the PGA Tour and Champions Tour throughout the years, and it is rated by Golf Digest as a four-star course.

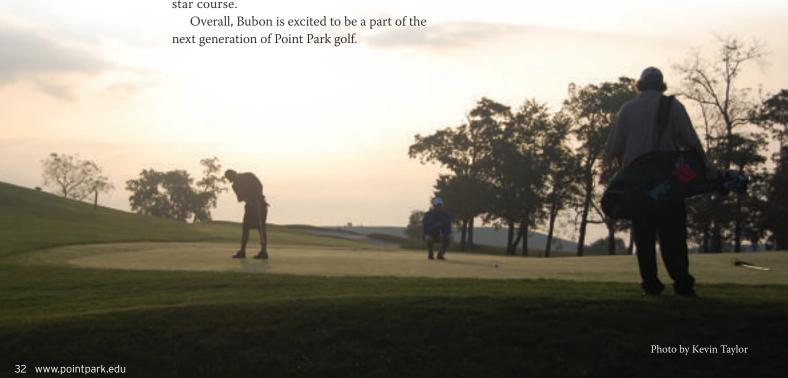
"It is very exciting to get the men's program going again and to start the women's team," said Bubon, a Warren, Ohio, native. "We have a hardworking group of golfers who are putting in a lot of time and effort to represent Point Park in golf."

Golf is officially a spring sport, but teams practice and participate in events in the fall. The men's team participated in four fall events and the women's team played in two tournaments. Members of both teams made daily trips this fall to Quicksilver to work on their games.

Those trips usually included pre-dawn sessions on the driving and putting range, and if they were lucky, a quick nine holes before heading back to class.

"We were leaving campus at 6:15 every morning," said Bubon. "They're dedicated and willing to put the time in, and that's what you are looking for. With golf, you get out of it what you put into it. We have some golfers who are new to college golf, but they are making progress.

"We are off to a nice start this year, and when everyone has a chance to see what we have to offer with the school, the course and so forth, I am sure that Point Park golf will be successful."



Torres Looks To Return Pioneers To Prominence

By Kevin Taylor



Head Coach Loren Torres

The Point Park baseball program has made 10 appearances in the NAIA World Series and owns an all-time record of 1,054-578-9. Indeed, the Pioneers have been one of the most consistent winners in the country, but they haven't made it back to the national tournament in over a decade. What's more, Point Park has missed the postseason the last five years.

In the hopes of bringing the program back the NAIA prominence, last July Point Park hired Loren Torres as the head coach of the Pioneers' baseball team. A native of Miami, Fla., Torres is confident that Point Park can regain its status on the college baseball scene.

"There is a rich tradition of baseball here," said Torres, whose previous college head coaching experience includes five years at Judson (Ill.) University, an NAIA member in Elgin, Ill., from 2003-07. "We want to get the program back to that point and continue to build on it."

Torres' plan to get Point Park back on track includes instilling a culture of discipline and strong preparation.

"It all starts with laying a foundation of discipline and structuring a program in which we are preparing well and preparing better than others care to or expect to," said Torres. "We will have a commitment to doing everything first class."

As with any program, recruiting will play a large role.

"We will not compromise on recruiting," said Torres, who was born in Puerto Rico. "Recruiting talented players is vital to our success. We will cover the Pittsburgh area first, and we will see how much of the recruiting puzzle we can fill locally. From there we will cover the region and the state

and then look nationally and internationally if we can't find the players we need."

Torres inherited an eager group of players who are anxious to get a taste of winning baseball.

"The guys have responded really well so far," said Torres.
"They are working hard every day. I know we can compete in the AMC and the NAIA again,

and how soon we get

to that point will depend on how

quickly the guys buy into what we are trying to do and how quickly we can draw top-notch recruits.

"Our goal is to make sure we are graduating alumni who

are proud of where they played and to bring back the tradition that the previous players laid. They made a lot of sacrifices to build the program, and we have to honor them by upholding that tradition."

In addition to his time at Judson, Torres' coaching experience also includes time as an assistant at Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design (2002) and his alma mater, Trinity International-South Florida (1997-2000). He has 10 years of experience as a Major League Baseball scout.

Photos by Murphy Moschetta, Point Park Photojournalism major.

Kevin Taylor is director of athletic communications at Point Park.

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POINT PARK UNIVERSITY ALUMNIE EVENTS

PITTSBURGH/LOCAL EVENTS:

Alumni Holiday Party

The Lemont Restaurant December 13, 2009

Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet

Point Park University, Lawrence Hall March 27, 2010

Recent Alumni Mixer

Spring 2010

SNEAK PEEK **2009-2010**

50th Anniversary Celebration

September 24-26, 2010

REGIONAL EVENTS:

Las Vegas, Nev. Alumni Reception February 4, 2010

Atlanta, Ga.

Alumni Reception

February 19, 2010

Boston, Mass.

New England Alumni Reception

March 2010

New York, N.Y.

School of Communication Alumni Reception

March 2010

New York, N.Y. Conservatory of Performing Arts Alumni Reception

May 2010

Los Angeles, Calif. Alumni Reception

May 2010

Portland, Ore.

Pacific Northwest Alumni Reception

Spring 2010



More events will be planned during the year.

Visit www.pointpark.edu/Alumni/Eventsactivities to find out more or to get involved.