

THE POINT



**TEACHABLE
MOMENTS WITH
40-YEAR
FACULTY**





Dear alumni and friends,

Although it's the middle of winter and we won't see signs of spring sprouting in the Village Park for a few more weeks, it feels like a fresh new beginning at Point Park.

I always look forward to the start of each new semester. Our students and faculty have already embarked on the spring semester of the academic year with creativity, optimism and enthusiasm.

One of the perennial strengths of Point Park is our exceptional faculty. In fact, when I visit with alumni in the Pittsburgh region or around the country, I frequently hear stories about the lasting influence of a particular professor on a graduate's life and career. I believe that those personal connections between our students and their teachers are a true hallmark of this University.

Among our dedicated faculty is a core group that has taught here for many decades. In this issue of *The Point*, you'll meet (or become reacquainted with) 10 of these professors — educators who have taught here for 40 years or longer. Although their areas of expertise

may vary, they share a common commitment to teaching and to their students. They carry the history of our University with them. While these professors are distinguished, they are not unique, of course. Whether a member of our emeritus faculty or a professor who joined Point Park in recent years, that personal and professional connection to students is a common thread.

We hope you'll be inspired to share your own memories of the impact a particular Point Park professor had on your life. Write and let us know. And on your next visit to Downtown Pittsburgh, stop by campus for a visit and see how much has changed in the neighborhood.

You'll also find that, fortunately, some things haven't changed. Dedication to students has remained a constant at Point Park. For that, we are grateful to this University's remarkable educators.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan
President



ON THE COVER:
The Point presents Teachable Moments with 10 faculty members who have taught at Point Park for 40 years or more. Meet each of them in this issue (beginning on page 14). Faculty portraits by Martha Rial. Vintage photos courtesy of the Point Park University Archives.

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This page, top: Pittsburgh sparkles at the One Young World 2012 Summit last October. Learn about Point Park participation on page 9. Photo courtesy of One Young World.

TALK TO US!

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

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



PARENTS AND STUDENTS ENJOY FAMILY WEEKEND 2012

Chatting with the president. Enjoying a horse-drawn carriage ride around Downtown Pittsburgh. Taking in student performances, screenings and exhibits. Visiting the Carnegie Museums.

Nearly 500 Point Park students and their family members, a record number of participants, enjoyed all those activities and more during Family Weekend 2012, held Oct. 12 - 14 on campus and at various locations in the city of Pittsburgh. Some families traveled from as far as Texas and California to spend the week-

end with students for what is becoming a popular Point Park tradition.

A highlight of Family Weekend was the Friday evening President's Reception, where families met and talked with Point Park President **Paul Hennigan** and his wife, Colleen, and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres in the Lawrence Hall lobby.

Additional Family Weekend activities included: visits to the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh; visits to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium; dance and theater performances in *Night on Broadway*;

screening of student films in *Night at the Movies*; an exhibit of student photography; a dessert reception; and Sunday brunch in the Lawrence Hall Dining Room.

Planning is already under way for next year's Family Weekend, with dates to be announced next year on Point Park's Family Weekend web page: www.pointpark.edu/StudentLife/OfficeofStudentAffairs/FamilyWeekend. For more information, email: studentaffairs@point-park.edu. We look forward to seeing you on campus next fall!

▶ **FEEDBACK**

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to The Point for achieving regional acclaim with a 2012 Golden Triangle Award. This recognition from the IABC is evidence of Point Park's growth and success. The Point has grown to become a dynamic reflection of the University itself, unfolding with stories of a growing, changing and increasingly amazing new Point Park.

Everywhere you go, there are sources of alumni pride and the celebration of the success of fellow Pioneers. Since my graduation in 1995, I've been fortunate to observe the rise of the Academic Village and its transformative impact in the Downtown neighborhood, making the Boulevard of the Allies and Wood Street a vibrant intersection of presence and possibilities.

When I think about my years at Point Park, what figures most prominently is not the campus but rather the strong connection between faculty and students. Professionals like Helen Fallon, Bob O'Gara, and Joe Knupsky showed us the way, figuratively and literally, with academic knowledge, career connections and a remarkable focus on students.

I've recently had the good fortune to reconnect with the University as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. To spend time in the new facilities and learn about the great things happening with students, faculty and fellow graduates gives way to the idea that the University is growing, and forming a formidable support structure in the modern facilities needed to carry forth the spirit of the University (which has always been firmly in place).

The time-honored advice from my wise professors came true: opportunities are everywhere if you're looking for them. With that in mind, I hope you'll find a reason to visit the campus. Attend an event, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, and make plans to tour the new Point Park. Who knows what you'll discover?

Congratulations Point Park University!

Carrie Butler (COM 1995), Carrie On Communication www.carrieoncommunication.com

Correction/Clarification
In the Feedback section of the Fall 2012 issue, we made an error in listing the first name of Michael N. Pomarico, D.M.D. (A&S 1964), who shared his experiences as a pre-dental student at Point Park under the leadership of former University President Arthur Blum. The Point regrets the error.

Professional Advancement

Robert Skertich, Ph.D., assistant professor of public administration, recently traveled to Neptune Township, N.J. in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to lead relief efforts. Skertich served as incident commander of the Pennsylvania Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT-PA1). He oversaw a group of approximately 40 doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists and medical technicians helping people who had been displaced from their homes due to storm damage and loss of electricity. "We were able to build a decompression hospital on the Neptune Township football field," said Skertich. Over the course of 13 days, Skertich's team, which is part of the National Disaster Medical System, treated more than 400 patients.

Brent Robbins, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, co-authored an article accepted for publication in *The Humanistic Psychologist*. "Mindfulness at the Heart of Existential-Phenomenology and Humanistic Psychology: A Century of Contemplation and Elaboration" was co-authored with Andrew J. Felder and Halle M. Aten at UCLA, Julie Neudeck at Villanova University, and Jennifer Shiomi-Chen at Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center.

Loren Torres, baseball head coach, was named the 2012 Collegiate Baseball Manager of the Year by the Rotary Club of Pittsburgh at the 6th Annual Chuck Tanner Awards on Nov. 17. Torres, who is in his fourth year at Point Park, received the prestigious honor by leading Point Park to a 53-11 record and a fifth-place finish at the NAIA World Series last spring. Point Park set a school record for wins in a season and reached the NAIA World Series for the 11th time in school history.

Gregory Rogers, J.D., professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies, has been elected president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). In addition, NOBLE's national president is Point Park alumna **Maurita Bryant**, a graduate of the Master of Science in criminal justice administration program. Rogers and Bryant were recognized at NOBLE's 12th Annual William H. Moore Awards and Scholarship Banquet held at Point Park on Oct. 27. Rogers has more than 32 years of experience in the intelligence community. In 2011, he received the U.S.A. Tactical Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award in Intelligence and National Security and is a member of the International Black Belt Hall of Fame. Bryant serves as assistant chief for the City of Pittsburgh Police, an adjunct professor at Point Park, and is a member of the University's Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Welcome New Faculty

Point Park welcomed the following faculty at the start of the 2012-2013 academic year:

David Rowell, assistant professor of sport, arts and entertainment management, has taught and worked in theatre management all over the United States. Prior to joining Point Park, he was executive director of the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe, Vt. Before that, Rowell was an assistant professor and head of the M.F.A. theatre management program at Florida State University.

Gregg Johnson, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical engineering technology, has experience working in and directing research and development teams in a

range of environments, from government research labs to multinational corporations. Most recently, he was manager of hardware engineering at Cisco Systems in Atlanta. Johnson has seven years of college-level teaching experience and has filed 10 U.S. patent applications (seven granted to date). He has written more than 50 peer-reviewed publications in journals relating to physics and engineering.

Jehnie Reis, Ph.D., is a visiting assistant professor of global cultural studies. She teaches history in the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences. Prior to Point Park, Reis taught an undergraduate history seminar for majors and accelerated academic writing at the University of Virginia. She also worked at the Boulder Historical Society in Colorado and studied abroad at the Université de Paris IV.

Amy Cesario, C.P.A. is visiting assistant professor of accounting at Point Park. Her courses include Introductory Accounting and Computer Applications of Accounting. Cesario began her accounting career at PNC Financial Services Group and then worked in public accounting for Ernst & Young. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Point Park and her M.B.A. from Jones International University.

Teresa Gregory, C.F.R.E., M.F.A., is assistant professor of sport, art and entertainment management. A high-level fundraiser and administrator with expertise in all aspects of non-profit management, she has been part of the leadership team on fundraising campaigns for a variety of organizations, including the Los Angeles Theater Center and Yale Repertory Theatre/Yale School of Drama. In Pittsburgh, she has worked at the Green Building Alliance and at Robert Morris University. Her firm, Pinnacle Fundraising Consultants, LLC provides strategic guidance and creative services to nonprofit organizations.

Edward Scott, C.P.A., M.B.A., is the George Rowland White Endowed Professor in Accounting and Finance. Scott began his career as an auditor at Deloitte & Touche. A former president of the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants, he later held positions at the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Housing Authority for the City of Pittsburgh. Scott is a former capital investment accounting director for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and also held executive positions at the Kansas City Southern Railroad.

Stephen Grebinski is visiting assistant professor of photography. Interested in the narrative potential of photography, his work in drawing, photography and collage explores issues of history, memory and loss and is often inspired both by Soviet

cinema and his upbringing in the industrial Midwest. Grebinski did an artist residency at Frank Mohr Instituut in The Netherlands in 2010, and was Speigel Fund Teaching Fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia from 2009-11.

Robin Cecala, Ph.D. is visiting assistant professor of communication. She studied communication at the State University of New York at Fredonia, multimedia technology at Duquesne University and mass communication at the University of Southern Mississippi – earning a bachelor of science, a master of science and a doctor of philosophy. She teaches courses in communication law, mass communication, video production and editing, broadcast writing and editing, and media ethics.

Laura J. Boyd is assistant professor of cinema. A documentary filmmaker, she received her M.F.A. in science and natural history filmmaking from Montana State University. In 2006 she joined National Geographic Television where she served in many roles, including associate producer for *Dangerous Encounters* and *Explorer* and produced the award winning children's series *Wild Detectives*. Laura received an Emmy nomination for documentary research on the National Geographic Explorer episode Talibanistan.

Pahl Hluchan is associate professor of cinema. He studied animation at Rhode Island School of Design, has worked in video production and acted as art director and puppet designer on children's programs. In 1992 he left video production to study painting at Yale University.

He received the George R. Bunker Prize for excellence in painting and printmaking. Hluchan, who has taught at the Savannah College of Art and Design and Dartmouth University, spent 14 years at the Delaware College of Art and Design where he created and ran the animation department.

Aimee-Marie Dorsten, Ph.D. is assistant professor of journalism and mass communication. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in communication, with an academic focus on political economy of media. Her projects have focused on communication technologies in socialist and quasi-communist countries such as Vietnam, China, and Poland, as well as the impact of globalization on these nations as they develop technologies and cope with change.

Sam Turich is a visiting artist in cinema. A film and stage director, his credits include *MOMBIES*, an official selection at film festivals in Europe and the U.S. that airs on WOED-TV (and YouTube) as well as public service announcements for local not-for-profits. His stage directing credits in New York include *Off the Top of Our Heads*, winner of the 6th Big Apple Improv Festival, *The Magnificent Hour*, *Insecurity Guards*, and *The 2nd American Revolution*. He has directed *As You Like It* at the Charity Randall Theatre. He is the educational outreach artist at Quantum Theatre.

Jason McDole is visiting artist in jazz dance. McDole, who has a congenital hearing disorder, graduated from the Juilliard School. He was selected by Twyla Tharp for a tour before appearing on Broadway in her show based on Bob Dylan tunes, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. In an interview with Dance Magazine McDole explained, "My process is learning the choreography first—what the tempo is in my body. Once it's in my muscle



Hennigan Leads Bike Tour

Photos and video by Chris Rolinson.

Point Park President **Paul Hennigan** led two dozen student leaders on a bicycle tour in and around Downtown Pittsburgh on Aug. 20, just before the start of the fall semester. They pedaled down bike trails, across bridges, along rivers and through Point State Park. Campus Life staff members also rode along. The goal was to help the students – community mentors and community facilitators in Point Park's residence halls – get to know Pittsburgh better so they can share those

experiences with other students, especially freshmen and sophomores. This was the second year Hennigan has led the bike tour for the CFs and CMs to help kick off a new academic year. At key points along the way – the Hot Metal Bridge, Point State Park, Washington's Landing – Hennigan and the students stopped to learn about Pittsburgh's history, admire the sparkling rivers and take in the gleaming big city skyline. See a video and photos: www.tinyurl.com/henniganbikeride



memory, I'm able to let that go and experience the music."

Monica Payne is a visiting assistant professor and theatre and graduate program director. She recently directed her own adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *The Incredible and Sad Tale of Innocent Erendira* and her *Heartless Grandmother*.

Payne trained with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company and earned an M.F.A. in directing from the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television. She received the James Pendleton Foundation Prize and has participated in the Lincoln Center Director's Lab and the Director's Lab West in Los Angeles.

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY President's Circle

“ I have supported Point Park University because of the total commitment to its students. ... As a proud Point Park parent, I am happy to continue investing in such a wonderful University. ”

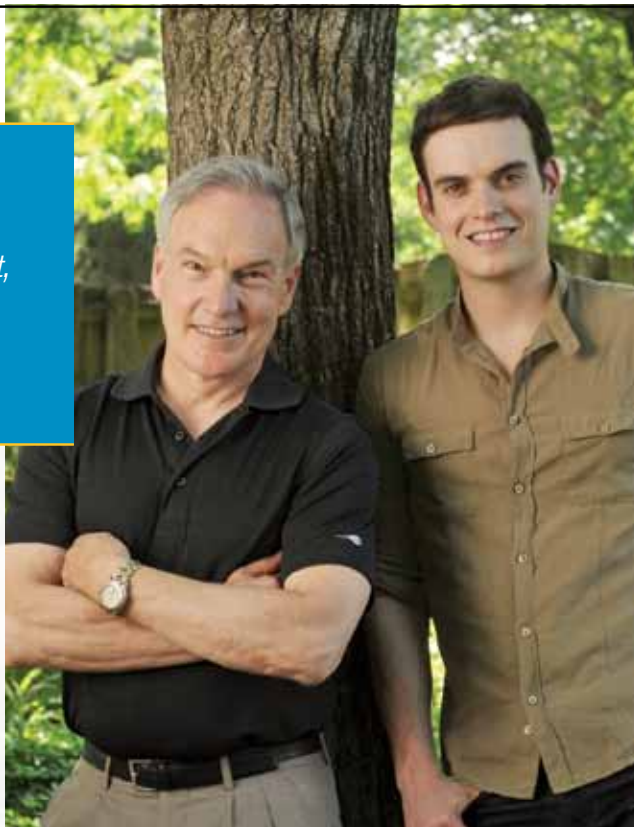
Charles R. Grubb, D.O.

CONSIDER JOINING THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE TODAY:

- Members support the University's annual fund with a leadership gift of \$1,000* or more during the fiscal year (Sept. 1-Aug. 31).
- By becoming a member, you demonstrate your commitment to Point Park University.
- Annual gifts provide educational opportunities to a diverse student body by making financial aid and support to academic and student programming possible.
- Members receive special recognition and event invitations throughout the fiscal year the gift was made.

*Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Become a member now at www.pointpark.edu/annualfund or contact us at annualfund@pointpark.edu or 412-392-3999.



John McManus is a visiting artist in theatre. Originally from Australia, he began his career studying Rudolf Steiner's creative speech and the Michael Chekhov acting technique. Later, he studied the techniques of Patsy Rodenburg, Catherine Fitzmaurice and Louis Colaianni as well as eurythmy (an art of movement). He was the artistic director of Walking the Dog Theater and Shakespeare Alive! and leads workshops at the Michael Chekhov Association and the Herbert Berghof Studios.

New Trustees

Four candidates were elected to the Board of Trustees on Oct. 23: Antoine G. Chammas, Robin Connolly, Cynthia D. Shapira and Darryl Ford Williams.

Antoine G. Chammas is a partner in Trinity Commercial Development, a real estate development firm he co-founded in 1998. During his development career, Chammas has been responsible for the development of over 1.5 million square feet of shopping centers, office buildings, and other commercial real estate developments. Chammas is a registered professional engineer and began his career as a civil and geotechnical engineer with Solar Testing Laboratories, Inc., in Cleveland, Ohio. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering technology from Point Park.

Robin Connolly is chief learning officer and director of recruiting operations for The PNC Financial Services Group. She is responsible for overseeing the creation and execution of workforce development strategies that increase individual and organizational productivity. Under Connolly's leadership, PNC was ranked fifth overall and the highest-rated bank in training and development in 2011 by

Training Magazine. Connolly holds a doctor's degree in instructional leadership from Duquesne University. She also has a master's degree in training and development from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor's degree in communications and media production from Duquesne.

Cynthia D. Shapira is senior policy advisor to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. She is a member of the Board of the Allegheny County Airport Authority and was appointed by Governor Tom Corbett to the Pennsylvania Commission on Women. She chairs the United Way of Allegheny County's initiative to address the needs of youth with disabilities "aging out" of the system through a county project and public policy solutions. Shapira is corporate secretary of the Jewish Federations of North America. Other leadership roles include co-chair of the Pittsburgh Promise Campaign and honorary co-chair of Allegheny 365, an initiative to ensure access to individuals of varying abilities in Allegheny County. Shapira has a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree summa cum laude in political science from Wellesley College.

Darryl Ford Williams is the vice president of content for WOED Multimedia in Pittsburgh, where she oversees the development, production and delivery of all new and existing local, national, international and syndicated television, radio, interactive and educational programming. Under her leadership, productions have taken WOED documentary teams across the country and to Kenya, Poland, Vietnam and Austria. Ford Williams' work has earned her Emmy Awards for *The Combat Zone*, part of a series of

documentaries produced for WJLA-TV in Washington, D.C. and for WOED's *On Q Special Report: RX For A Healthier Community*. She has served on the Mayor's Commission on Families, Urban Youth Action, the Pittsburgh Film Office, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and Shady Side Academy.

New Master's Degrees Programs

M.A. in Clinical-Community Psychology

Beginning in the fall of 2013, the School of Arts and Sciences will offer a 48-credit master of arts degree in clinical-community psychology. In addition to being unique to the state, the degree program is only offered by three other universities in the U.S. "This program looks to provide communities with the tools they need to resolve issues and take steps toward making transformative changes in the well-being of their citizens," said **Brent Robbins**, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and incoming president of the Society for Humanistic Psychology, Division 32 of the American Psychological Association. The program integrates two subfields of psychology — clinical and community psychology, offering students a holistic, humanistic, and phenomenological approach that seeks to better explain human experience and behavior. According to Robbins, "Our program is designed for individuals who are passionate about social change and have deep ethical concerns for others." The need for psychologists to meet the demands of hospitals, schools, social service agencies, clinics and private companies is on the rise. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, overall employment of psychologists is expected to grow 22 percent by 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. "Psychological expertise is needed in all communities. Graduates of our master's

program will come away with solid research skills and a strong psychological knowledge of how the community can contribute to the joy, dignity and freedom of individuals," said Robbins.

M.A. in Communication Technology

Beginning in the Fall of 2013, the School of Communication will offer a 36-credit Master of Arts degree in communication technology. The innovative M.A. program will prepare students to embrace technology as an essential part of their professional portfolio for careers in fields such as multimedia, graphic design, social media and digital journalism. "This graduate program in communication technology will focus on the recent trends and practices in the area of new and emerging communication technologies," said **Tatyana Dumova**, Ph.D., associate professor of multimedia. The program "will help its graduates stay current and succeed in an increasingly competitive and technology-driven world." The M.A. program reaches

far beyond skills-based training, keeping communications theory, ethics and legal scholarship at its core and incorporating a focus on new social interaction technologies. Graduates will be well-positioned to pursue careers in the business, government and non-profit sectors that deal with new media production, e-publishing, marketing, public affairs, education and professional training. The program "will enable students to develop knowledge of industry standard technology tools and applications used to design, produce and disseminate communication messages," Dumova said, and will "provide a working familiarity with technology-related principles and practices applied in diverse professional fields that are affected by established and emerging communication technologies." Point Park developed the program in response to recent developments in communications technology and the need for skilled professionals who not only understand but also embrace those ongoing changes. "The School of Communication is taking a lead in the region by

establishing this M.A. program focused on new media technology," said **Steve Hallock**, Ph.D., director of the school and its graduate studies program. "The world of journalism is changing and we are leading this change rather than waiting for it to come to us." Graduates will also be able to engage in communication technology analysis and research or seek admission to doctoral programs. Courses will be offered for both daytime and evening schedules, giving students the option of completing degree course work entirely through evening classes.

Learn More about Graduate Programs

For additional details on the new master's degree programs and other graduate education opportunities, including information about alumni tuition discounts, contact the Office of Graduate and Adult Enrollment, at ptenroll@pointpark.edu or 412-392-3808.

Scholarship Dinner Brings Benefactors & Recipients Together



Above: Trustee Emeritus **Thomas Golonski** (BUS 1972), fifth from right, joins some of the past and present recipients of the Thomas W. Golonski Family Undergraduate Scholarship at the Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner on campus Nov. 1. Family members, including Golonski's own granddaughter (at his immediate left), also joined the group for the photo (by Jim Judkis).

Nearly 100 people gathered together for the Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner in the Lawrence Hall ballroom on Nov. 1. Attendees included alumni and friends who have established an endowed scholarship fund, as well as current students and graduates who have benefited from a named scholarship during their studies. Among the more than 40 endowed scholarship funds at Point Park are those that honor the memory of a family member or friend, favorite teacher or other special purpose. The **Thomas W. Golonski** Family Undergraduate Scholarship, for example, benefits non-traditional undergraduates such as adults in part-time or accelerated programs. "Our generous benefactors share a commitment to the mission of Point Park University," says **Barbara Cinpinski**, Esq., director of planned giving. "They want to give back to students and to future generations." For more information, contact Cinpinski at 412-392-4215 or bcinpinski@pointpark.edu.

Convocation Features Alumnus
and Journalist Michael DeCourcy

Incoming freshmen and transfer students participated in Point Park's annual Convocation on Aug. 24 at the Sheraton Station Square. The ceremony opens the academic year and offers new students an opportunity to meet and speak to fellow classmates, faculty, University leadership and alumni. Attendees heard remarks from President **Paul Hennigan**, Ed.D., **Karen McIntyre**, Ph.D., senior vice president for academic and student affairs and **Ian Sulkowski**, senior global cultural studies major and president of United Student Government. The featured speaker was **Michael DeCourcy**, a 1981 graduate of Point Park with a degree in journalism and communications. DeCourcy has spent the last 12 years as Sporting News' college basketball columnist, following newspaper stints at the Pittsburgh Press, the Memphis Commercial-Appeal and the Cincinnati Enquirer. He also is an analyst on the Big Ten Network and can be heard as a frequent guest on sports radio stations coast-to-coast. He has covered 23 Final Fours, more than 20 world championship fights and the Summer Olympics in 1992 and 1996. The U.S. Basketball Writers Association inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 2012. According to DeCourcy, "it's really an exciting time to be a student at Point Park. So much has changed since I was there and I'm so proud to be an alumnus. I hope

students and prospective students appreciate all of the growth and changes at Point Park, and take advantage of the opportunities available within Downtown Pittsburgh."

An Evening with Barbara Ehrenreich



More than 200 students, faculty, staff and community members packed into the George Rowland White Theater to hear political activist and best-selling author **Barbara Ehrenreich**, Ph.D., speak at the fifth annual "An Evening With..." Global Cultural Studies Public Speakers' Series. Ehrenreich's presentation on Nov. 14 focused on the topic of poverty and the class stereotypes that affect poor people. "I get really upset when I hear anyone speak disrespectfully about people in poverty. We tend to have a society that persecutes the poor," said Ehrenreich. "Poverty is simply a shortage of money caused by a lack of adequate pay in the work force." Ehrenreich spoke about how as a journalist she went undercover to experience life in the minimum wage world as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. This became the inspiration for her book *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*. Through these experiences, she learned that "every job takes intelligence, skill and deserves our complete respect." An advocate for health care, peace, women's rights, and economic justice, Ehrenreich is the author of 21 books and a frequent contribu-

tor to the New York Times, Harpers and Time magazine. "I thought the event was a success. The composition of the audience proves that we performed a good public service and from the people who spoke to me — strangers — it was clear that the name of Point Park is now also being associated with intellectual and social concerns," remarked **Channa Newman**, Ph.D., professor of French and cultural studies, director of the global cultural studies program, and coordinator of modern languages for the humanities.

Pittsburgh. Here + Now.

President **Paul Hennigan** joined Pittsburgh Mayor **Luke Ravenstahl** along with members of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Downtown Retail Task Force and other stakeholders on Nov. 14 to help launch the Downtown Action Strategy, a three-year plan aimed at attracting and retaining retail businesses in Downtown Pittsburgh. It's the result of a yearlong process that brought together various groups committed to making Downtown a great place to be. The Plan includes a new City marketing strategy, improvements to the Downtown streetscape and recommendations for new policies and incentives to spur development. The slogan for the effort is: Pittsburgh. Here + Now, a statement that reflects the momentum of the city and its assets. According to Hennigan, "as a continuation of the University's active work with other partners committed to positive change Downtown, we offered the building facades along Forbes Avenue as the first display of the City's Downtown Action Strategy messages. The new building wraps emphasize the vitality of the city and the University's Academic Village Initiative. Point Park's recent transition to a dynamic new enrollment marketing campaign presented the perfect opportunity to replace the old building wrap," added Hennigan. "We thank the City

for their partnership in making the new display possible."

Among 10,000 Friends

Point Park hosted 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania's annual 2012 Commonwealth Awards in Lawrence Hall on Dec. 5. The University was among several southwest Pennsylvania winners of the "10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania - Community Transportation Excellence Award" for 2012, selected from the first round of the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) funding. 10,000 Friends is an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to enhancing the quality of life for Pennsylvanians by promoting policies and actions that will revitalize and sustain the social and economic well-being of the state's urban, suburban, and rural communities, foster responsible land use, and conserve resources. The alliance has worked with PennDOT to establish PCTI, a competitive funding program to support local transportation projects that exemplify the goals of Smart Transportation. The PCTI awardees demonstrate the importance of infrastructure investment and the benefits to communities.

A Golden Triangle Award for The Point

The Point, the magazine for alumni and friends of Point Park University, received a 2012 Golden Triangle Award from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Pittsburgh Chapter at the organization's annual banquet at the downtown Doubletree Hotel on Sept. 27. The magazine earned an Award of Honor in the Communication Skills/Magazines category, which measured overall quality, including writing, editing, design etc. Other awardees in this category included magazines from Carnegie Mellon, Duquesne University and PPG POINTPARK.EDU

Industries. The award presentation included a representative comment from the judges, who cited the effective integration of The Point print magazine with Web/online content. Your ideas and feedback are always welcome. Write to thepoint@pointpark.edu. And if you are an alum, be sure to share your professional and family news in a Class Note.

One Young World and Point Park

Point Park senior and United Student Government (USG) President **Ian Sulkowski** was among 1,300 delegates from more than 180 countries at the 2012 One Young World (OYW) Summit, which was hosted in Pittsburgh Oct. 18 – 21. It was the first time the summit took place in the United States. Point Park and Pittsburgh extended a warm welcome to delegates at the summit,

which brought together the younger generation's best and brightest to ensure their concerns, opinions and solutions are heard. Participants left the summit with the goal of taking action to drive positive change in their communities, companies and countries around the world. Sulkowski said he enjoyed the "collaborative process through which young people from so many different countries had the opportunity to come together to debate issues and tangible solutions in such areas as economics, global health and more." According to Sulkowski, a global cultural studies major, the experience was "very rewarding and very much in line with what I've been studying for the past four years at Point Park." Fifteen Point Park dancers performed a work choreographed by Assistant Professor **Kiesha Lalama** and **Kellie Hodges**, an adjunct instructor in dance, at a welcome party for summit



Warm Up at Osteria 100

There's no better place to relax, enjoy a good meal, and get a close-up view of the latest developments in the Academic Village than Osteria 100, the new restaurant adjacent to the Village Park in the heart of Point Park's campus. According to **Chef Greg Alauzen**, executive chef for Cioppino and Osteria brands, diners will find fresh, made-from-scratch food in a warm atmosphere no matter what the season. Osteria (pronounced O-sta-REE-a) refers to a casual Italian eating establishment that offers seasonally prepared dishes featuring local ingredients. "The restaurant has been designed to include rustic elements, such as natural wood and brick, to make it comfortable for everyone," says Alauzen. "Both the food and the atmosphere are very approachable." Signature dishes

include house made fresh pastas as well as handmade pizzas, sandwiches and salads. Some dishes, such as the popular meatballs, fresh gnocchi, and lamb minis (sliders made with nationally acclaimed Elysian Fields lamb from nearby Greene County) are perennial menu favorites, according to Alauzen. Cured meats such as sopressata and prosciutto come from Parma in the Strip District. The restaurant offers sandwich specials for students in the mid-afternoon and a Happy Hour designed to appeal to downtown diners and alumni alike. "We want everyone, from students and parents to professors and alumni, to come to Osteria 100 and feel at home," says Alauzen. "Drop by, have a great meal and see how much the campus has grown and changed. It's beautiful!"

Learn more at www.osteria100pittsburgh.com



Out and About with the Bison

Point Park's Bison mascot visited various hot spots around Downtown Pittsburgh in October to prepare for the Twitter Bison Hunt, a scavenger hunt-style competition hosted by the Office of Campus Life for the Living and Learning Communities' annual "Pizza with the President" contest. The Bison ventured to the Gateway T stop, the Liberty Avenue Musicians sculpture, and Fraley's Robot Repair. Photo by Terra McBride.

participants on the Roberto Clemente bridge. Earlier in the year, Point Park teamed up with the Pittsburgh office of Havas PR to support the firm's One Young House summer internship experience, part of preparation for the arrival of the 2012 OYW Summit. The firm provided four paid internships and Point Park provided the interns with a student apartment on its Downtown campus. The interns documented their experiences through social media, including the OYW Pittsburgh Partnership Facebook page and the @OYWPittsburgh Twitter feed. According to Point Park Dean of Students **Keith Paylo**, the internship program reflected "Point Park's dedication to providing students with real-life work experience in a fun, educational urban environment." Intern **Shaquela Myrick**, a senior public relations and advertising major, said "we loved both working and living in the city for four months. It

helped us interns to see the big picture and envision life in the 'real world.' I've learned the importance of knowing one's own self worth and talents," she added.

2012 Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame

Point Park's Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame inducted four honorees for the Class of 2012 at an Induction Ceremony on Sept. 29 in Lawrence Hall. The 2012 inductees are **Jesse Bender** (Men's Cross Country, 2002-06), **Nathan "Sonny" Lewis** (Men's Basketball, 1978-80), **Lynn Newson** (Women's Basketball, 2001-05) and **Debbie Zanolli** (Women's Basketball, 1979-83). The ceremony included acceptance speeches by each of the honorees, and Sonny Lewis' induction was accepted posthumously on his behalf by his sister Ann Frances. Each inductee was introduced by a presenter who spoke of their Hall of Fame credentials. Cross country

head coach **Jim Irvin** presented Jesse Bender. Former men's basketball head coach **Jerry Conboy** presented Sonny Lewis. Lynn Newson and Debbie Zanolli were presented by former women's basketball head coaches **Ed Meena** and **Jim McKinnon**, respectively. The event was presided over by Point Park alumnus and Master of Ceremonies **Fred McLeod** (COM 1974) a former star baseball pitcher for the Pioneers who is now the voice of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers. The evening concluded with a visit to the newly relocated Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame display area on the second floor of the Student Center (the display was formerly housed in Thayer Hall). For more information, visit www.pointpark.edu/athletics/halloffame.

Green Tree Honors Baseball Program

The Point Park baseball program received special recognition from Green Tree Borough, the site of the Pioneers' home field of Green Tree Park, with the passing of Resolution # 1184 at the Borough Council Meeting on Oct. 1. The baseball team, which finished fifth at the NAIA World Series in May 2012, was recognized as a "role model for success in the community," as described in the resolution signed by Mayor C.F. Hammer. Point Park baseball head coach **Loren Torres** and Director of Athletics **Dan Swalga** were on hand to accept the recognition. Green Tree Park has been the site of Point Park's home field since 2010, when the Pioneers became the main tenant of the facility located near Parkway Center Mall. In 2011 the scoreboard in right field was renovated to designate it as the home field of Point Park University baseball with school name and athletic logo. ❖



Alumni Dancers Teach in Suriname

Three Point Park dance alumni, **James A. Washington** (COPA '10), **Annalee Traylor** (COPA '10) and **Kaylin Horgan** (COPA '11), all members of the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, performed and taught dance to disadvantaged young people in the country of Suriname last October. **Kendra Dennard**, another former Point Park dance student, and Managing Director Andrea Young were also among the Ensemble members who made the trip.

The outreach program in Suriname, which lies above Brazil on the northern coast of South America (between Guyana and French Guiana), was the first international venture for the Ensemble, named one of "25 to Watch" in 2012 by Dance Magazine. Founded in 2009, the Ensemble aims to provide a bridge in the regional dance community, reaching across ethnic and socio-economic lines to bring different dancers of different backgrounds and styles to celebrate the diversity of dance.

According to Young, the deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy spotted the Ensemble at the Three Rivers Arts Festival last June and arranged the visit to Suriname. "The idea for this project originated with the visit of hip hop artist Terence Nicholson, a.k.a. Sub-Z, in 2010. Surinamers often commented on the esprit de corps that was generated by the group's visit," she said. "Forms

of relatively trendy dance are enormously popular, and a good avenue for reaching youth with messages about community building, team work and self esteem." During their visit the Ensemble dancers presented performances and conducted workshops for groups of young people, according to Young. Values such as hard work, team-building, sound-decision making and collaboration with others were emphasized.

Washington, who has been part of the Ensemble since its inception, told the Post-Gazette that the Ensemble was honored to participate in the Suriname project: "I think it definitely puts another pinpoint on the map for us," he said. He graduated cum laude from Point Park and has worked with and performed pieces by Sidra Bell, Francesca Harper, David Parsons, Kyle Abraham, Darrell Grand-Moultraire, Robert Battle, Cheryl Mann, and Christopher Huggins among others. In 2010, Washington participated in the prestigious project "Springboard Danse Montreal" in Quebec.

August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble members perform for youth in South America



Annalee Traylor is a founding member of the Ensemble who concentrated in contemporary dance as a student at Point Park. She has performed works by Robert Battle, Bill T. Jones, Daniel Ezralow, Doug Varone, Whitney Moncrief, Jason Mcdole, and Kiesha Lalama. In addition, Traylor has spent summers at River North Dance Chicago, American Dance Festival, and Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts.

Point Park alumna Kaylin Horgan became the youngest member of Pearlann Porter's Pillow Project Dance Company when she was 14 years old. She has performed works by such choreographers as Terence Greene, Christopher Huggins, Camille A. Brown, Robert Battle, Antonio Brown, Sidra Bell and Darrell Grand-Moultraire. In 2011, Kaylin toured throughout Paris, France, with the Pillow Project and renowned jazz poet Moe Seager. ❖

Above left: Washington and Traylor perform. Photo by Aidan McKean. Inset: Washington dances. Photo by Cassie Kay Rusnak.



Trustee Kathleen White, seated, accepts flowers presented by Point Park Trustee and alumnus Donald Jenkins (BUS 1970) and Anne Lewis, chair of the Board of Trustees, at the dedication ceremony for the George Rowland White Performance Center on Oct. 23. Photo by Jim Judkis



A portrait of the late George Rowland White. Photo by Tom Bell.

CULTURAL CORNERSTONE

Dance Building is Named the George Rowland White Performance Center

During a private ceremony on Oct. 23, Point Park University announced that the recently-constructed Dance building on the Boulevard of the Allies, which houses eight state-of-the-art dance studios, including the George Rowland White Performance Studio, has been officially named the George Rowland White Performance Center.

The late George White and his wife, Kathleen, are longtime benefactors to the University.

"To recognize George White's many years of service to Point Park as a trustee, to honor the vision he promoted for Point Park as a dynamic urban university, and in appreciation for his generous support of the University, the Board of Trustees voted to honor him by naming the Dance Complex the George Rowland White Performance Center," said Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park.

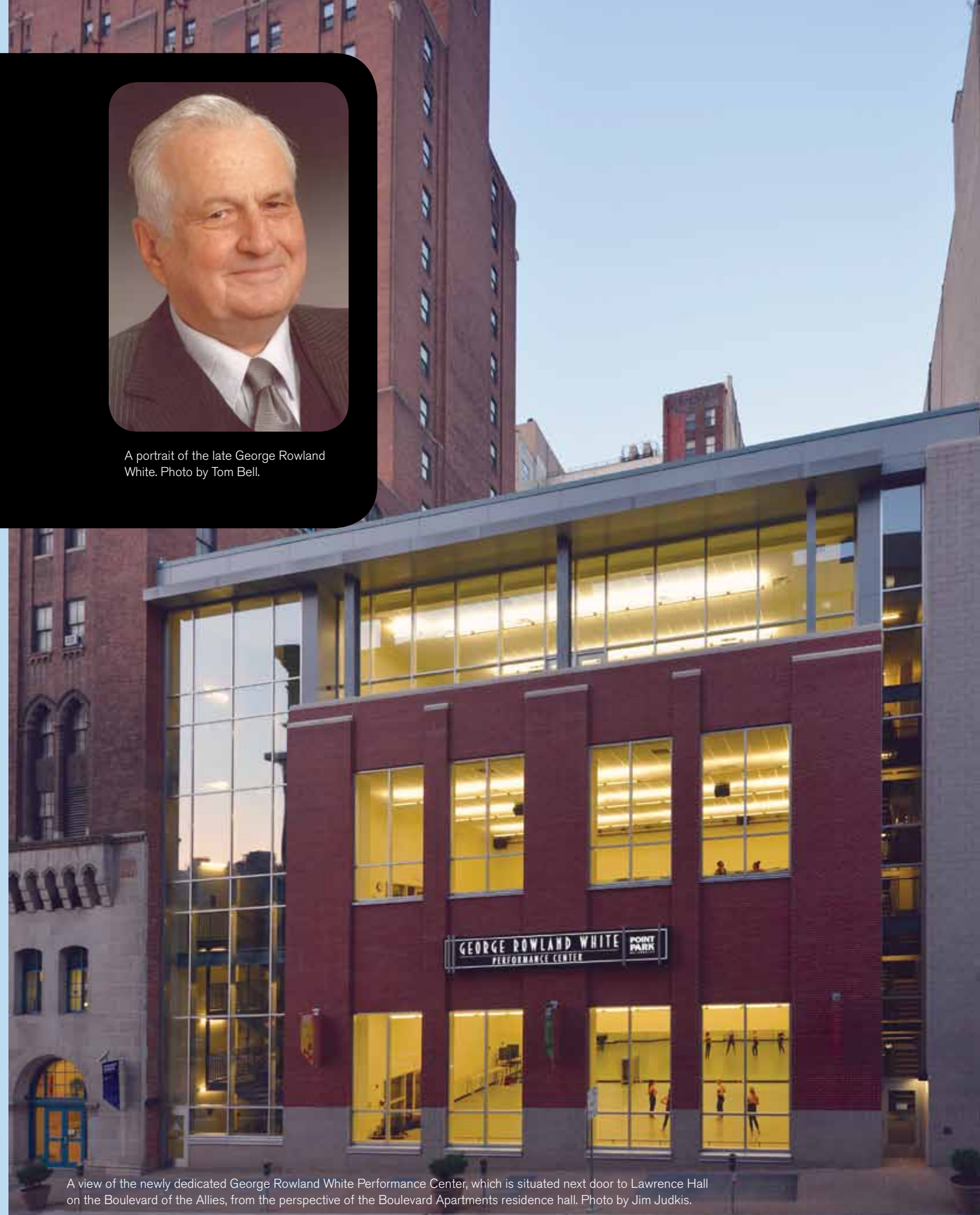
White was elected to the Point Park University Board of Trustees in 1995. During his tenure as a trustee, he served in leadership roles as chair of the Facilities Committee and was a long-standing member of the Academic Affairs Committee. White was a tireless advocate for Point Park's programs, students, and faculty.

The Whites contributed generously to the University by providing naming gifts for a performance studio in the Dance building, a theater in the University Center, and an endowed professorship in Urban Accounting and Finance.

White was a former Xerox executive with a Ph.D. in nuclear physics and served on the faculty of the Harvard School of Business. His wife, Kathleen, earned a math and science degree at Purdue University. She has also been elected to the Point Park University Board of Trustees.

Point Park's George Rowland White Performance Center is a \$16 million facility that opened in 2007. It earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold, one of the elite levels of certification in the U.S. Green Building Council's building performance program and was the first building of its kind to receive that distinction.

The 42,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building contains rehearsal studios and performance space designed to meet the artistic, health and safety needs of students and the professionals who teach them. ❖



A view of the newly dedicated George Rowland White Performance Center, which is situated next door to Lawrence Hall on the Boulevard of the Allies, from the perspective of the Boulevard Apartments residence hall. Photo by Jim Judkis.

Teachable Moments

Ten professors who have taught for 40 years or longer talk about education and why they remain committed to Point Park students

Text by Cheryl Valyo and photographs by Martha Rial

Not long after both joined the faculty of Point Park College, Robert Fessler and Nathan Firestone and several other teachers challenged their students to a touch football game on a field in a Pittsburgh neighborhood.

The students won that game, Fessler recalls with a laugh.

More than four decades later, Fessler, Firestone and a group of fellow longtime faculty members are still hard at work challenging their students – that is, challenging them to think critically and push the boundaries of educational achievement.

And it's fair to say that Point Park students are still the winners.

"Among longtime faculty, there is a common bond. We have been through so many changes at Point Park over the years," says Fessler, now a professor of psychology and global cultural studies and the acting dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

From the early 1970s, when a financial crisis threatened Point Park's very survival, to the current era of academic growth and campus expansion, "There remains a core group of teachers who have been here for decades. We carry the history of the University with us," says Fessler.

"All of these faculty members really, truly care about education."

The Point talked with the 10 professors who have taught for 40 years or longer to learn more about how, and why, they remain committed to educating Point Park students. In the following pages, you'll meet (or become reacquainted with) each of them.

Whether you graduated in 1969 or 2012, you are invited to share your own memories of the Point Park professors who made a lasting impact on your life. Write to us at thepoint@pointpark.edu.



All vintage photographs courtesy of the Point Park University Archives.

Nicolas Petrov, Ph.D.

Professor of Dance, Conservatory of Performing Arts

"Teaching is at least 50 percent experience. The other half is knowledge of the subject," says Nicolas Petrov, Ph.D., professor of dance in the Conservatory of Performing Arts. Few people have as great a wealth of experience as Petrov, a legendary dancer and choreographer who created Point Park's dance program and founded Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (and was its director from 1969 to 1977). In 1969, Petrov was teaching at the Pittsburgh Playhouse when [then President] Arthur Blum "brought me to Point Park. I was ready to return to New York, but he persuaded me to stay and was very supportive." Petrov chronicled his career and influential role in shaping the professional dance movement in Pittsburgh in his book, *In the Shadow of the Greats*. He offers insights into technique in *The Dance Method*. Both books are available at the Point Park bookstore. "The goal in teaching is to transmit experience to the younger generation," he observes. "You don't want them to make the same mistakes and lose time, because the competition grows more intense every year. "I feel connected to all of my students," says Petrov. Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint.





Robert Fessler, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Acting Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Nathan Firestone, J.D.
Professor of Political Science

In 1969, Robert Fessler, Ph.D. was completing his doctorate in psychology at Duquesne University and working at a Pittsburgh hospital. "I visited my Ph.D. faculty advisor and explained that while I loved my work, I would rather be teaching. And in one of those wonderful coincidences, the phone rang, he picked it up, and it was the department chair at Point Park - a former teacher of mine - saying 'someone just quit, do you know anyone who wants to teach?' Shortly thereafter, "I walked into a full-time teaching job and I've been here ever since." In the past 40 years Fessler, who has travelled extensively, has taught psychology and global cultural studies courses and is now acting dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Teaching remains his top priority. "I aim to teach in a way that connects with the entire range of students [and their differing abilities]. I never teach only to the top, or the middle, but rather strive to connect with all of my students." Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint.

"I like to tell my students that my objective is simple," says Nathan Firestone, J.D., professor of political science. "I would like them to pick up the New York Times and fully grasp what is in there - and ultimately develop a more sophisticated understanding of politics." Firestone came to Point Park to teach comparative government part-time and joined the full-time faculty in 1970. Along the way, he earned his law degree and now teaches constitutional law in addition to government and political science courses. A long-time magistrate, Firestone served the neighborhoods of Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Point Breeze, Regent Square and Swisshelm Park in the city of Pittsburgh. He is now a senior magisterial district judge. "When I started, Point Park was primarily a business school - the arts were not prominent at all. That has obviously changed. The presence of the Conservatory has been invaluable." In teaching, his aim is to "create an intellectually challenging, yet not intimidating, atmosphere in the classroom." He strives to "be a bit laid-back and yet still maintain high standards - for my own performance and that of my students." Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint



"I like teaching here because we have many academically ambitious students," says Channa Newman, Ph.D. "My job, as I see it, is to enable these intellectually inclined students to gain knowledge - especially students who understand the value of critical thinking and who want to know history and consider the global picture." These students are often neglected, she says, in the push toward career preparation that is so prevalent in higher education today. "If you offer students cultural capital - knowledge - when they reach their chosen profession, or face any challenge, their knowledge is a major asset." Few people are as ideally suited to impart that cultural capital as Newman, who came to Point Park in the mid 1960s to teach French and founded the University's Global Cultural Studies program. "In the early years, many of my students were double majors in French and ballet," she recalls. "They were some of my best students." Newman has taken groups of Point Park students to France more than 30 times in the past four decades. It's an opportunity, she says, "to get close to the French culture and engage in thinking and comparisons, for example, with American culture." Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint.

Channa Newman, Ph.D.
Professor of French and Cultural Studies
Director of Global and Cultural Studies



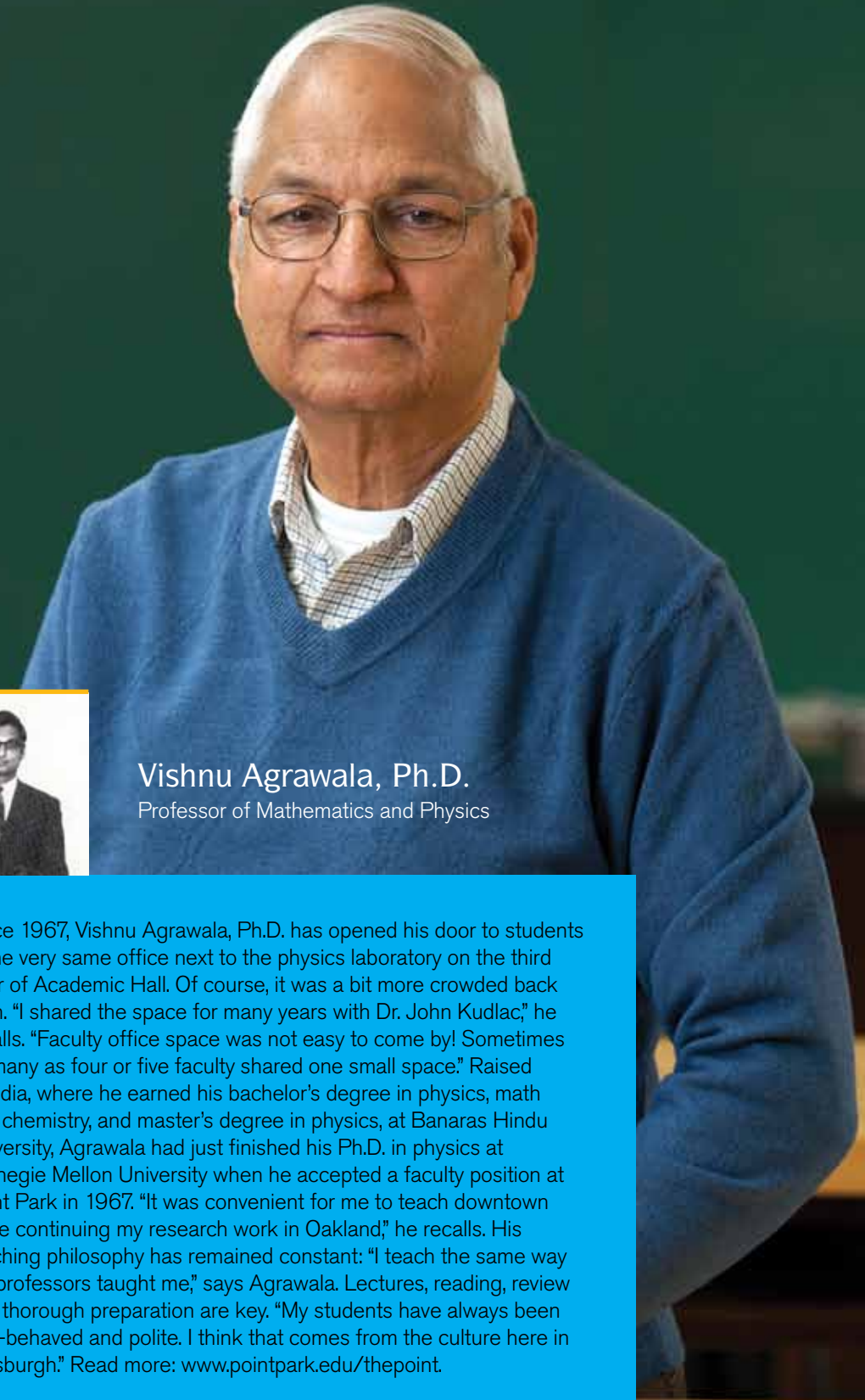
Robert Alexander, Ph.D.
Professor of English
Director, University Writing Program



Robert Lewis, Ph.D.
Professor of English

On a whim, Robert Alexander, Ph.D. answered a job information listing 40 years ago for a teaching position at Point Park. The quirky ad read that they were seeking a generalist who could return a serve from the backhand corner, says Alexander. He read the ad to an apartment-mate who advised a response in kind. So Alexander wrote back, explaining nine out of 10 football players make better professors. "The chairman appreciated my attempt to humor him back." Alexander was impressed with Pittsburgh not being the "grimy, dirty city" he thought it was. He also liked the professors and diverse students. The campus consisted of two buildings connected by a glass walkway, the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and a campus in Switzerland, he says. Its growth impresses him. "It's the mainstay of Downtown. Without Point Park, the city would be completely dead. The area will be prosperous with new buildings." On the occasion of 40 years of teaching, the Belmont, Mass., native says "I didn't know I was going to have a 40th anniversary or anyone else either, since the university was in financial crisis in the early 70s." Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint.

Robert Lewis, Ph.D. had just earned his doctorate in English literature at Notre Dame University and was facing a bleak job market, when a friend relayed an overheard conversation about job openings at Point Park College in Pittsburgh. "I never heard of it, but I jumped at the opportunity," the Philadelphia native recalls. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. "Over the years I have taught a wide variety of courses, from Shakespeare to the American playwrights to the English novel. That's one of the aspects of Point Park that I have liked a lot," says Lewis. "I couldn't specialize, because we were too small, so I became a generalist of sorts. That has kept me on my intellectual toes." After weathering the early 1970s, when the college nearly closed and professors took small weekly salaries just to keep the doors open, Lewis says he values the collegiality of colleagues such as fellow English professor Bob Alexander. "We have suffered and celebrated together," he laughs. "Point Park gave me the opportunity to do what I like to do, and that is to teach." Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint.



Vishnu Agrawala, Ph.D.
Professor of Mathematics and Physics

Since 1967, Vishnu Agrawala, Ph.D. has opened his door to students in the very same office next to the physics laboratory on the third floor of Academic Hall. Of course, it was a bit more crowded back then. "I shared the space for many years with Dr. John Kudlac," he recalls. "Faculty office space was not easy to come by! Sometimes as many as four or five faculty shared one small space." Raised in India, where he earned his bachelor's degree in physics, math and chemistry, and master's degree in physics, at Banaras Hindu University, Agrawala had just finished his Ph.D. in physics at Carnegie Mellon University when he accepted a faculty position at Point Park in 1967. "It was convenient for me to teach downtown while continuing my research work in Oakland," he recalls. His teaching philosophy has remained constant: "I teach the same way my professors taught me," says Agrawala. Lectures, reading, review and thorough preparation are key. "My students have always been well-behaved and polite. I think that comes from the culture here in Pittsburgh." Read more: www.pointpark.edu/thepoint



John J. Kudlac, Ph.D.
Professor of Earth Sciences and
Engineering Technology
Graduate Program Director



"I aim to inculcate in students a set of ideals, and then provide them with the skills to reach those ideals," says John Kudlac, Ph.D. "Putting it another way, we want to take each student to a place they never thought they would go." Kudlac was a graduate student in geology at the University of Pittsburgh when he noticed a posting for a part-time job teaching physical and historical geology at Point Park Junior College. "I interviewed, and they offered me full-time position to teach physics. But I'm not a physics major, I said! They replied, 'you took physical chemistry so you should be able to do it.'" In the decades that followed, Kudlac has taught everything from basic science for non-science majors to earth sciences, environmental sciences, and civil engineering technology, a program that he helped to develop. Along the way, he has held administrative positions ranging from associate dean of academic advising to executive director of enrollment management to chair of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology Department. "I've had a lot of different opportunities for growth here," he says. Read more: www.pointpark.edu/the-point.



George C. Bromall II, J.D.
Professor of Business Management
Director, Community Engagement

Edward C. Wachter, Jr., J.D.
Professor of Business Management

George C. (Corky) Bromall II, J.D. (B.S. math, computer science, 1970) jokingly says he's been at Point Park so long that the day he moved into Lawrence Hall is the day the former Sherwyn Hotel was sold. "Imagine, one day it was a hotel and the next day a dorm," says Bromall, professor of business management and director of community engagement for the School of Business and its on-site corporate M.B.A. program. Teaching for 40 years, Bromall has actually been at Point Park for 46 years if you "roll that into my years as a student!" Bromall was asked to teach a class "for a year or so." He went to law school at night and taught during the day. The Altoona native worked at U.S. Steel Corp. as programmer analyst after he graduated from Point Park. Bromall is proprietor of Bromall Law and Bromall Real Estate, and a partner at Sunset Coastal LLC in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Bromall told Point Park President Paul Hennigan he might stay another 10 to 15 years. "The president said, 'Why don't you stay another 20?'" Read more: www.pointpark.edu/the-point.

"I love to learn and I think the best way to learn something is to teach it," says Professor Edward C. Wachter, Jr., J.D. "By sharing what you know, you can help change the lives of your students." In 1967, Wachter was studying for the bar exam when an opening came up to teach business law at Point Park. "I had always wanted to teach and was lucky enough to be hired," he recalls. He taught during the day, napped after classes on his small desk in a shared office in Academic Hall, and finished his bar exam course at night. These days, Wachter teaches business courses and provides legal and consulting services for individuals and businesses. A practicing attorney, he has been a creative innovator both in his teaching and in his law practice as well as other faculty responsibilities. He developed the first online course at Point Park and since then, has taught seven different online courses numerous times. Wachter was the designer of the first accelerated program at the University, the School of Business' Saturday Fast program, (now known as Saturday-only) as well as the Health Systems Management concentration within the M.B.A. program and the Entrepreneurship concentration in the undergraduate Business Management program. Read more: www.pointpark.edu/the-point.

Serving Families

Alumna and Assistant Professor Marcia Sturdivant, Ph.D. is deputy director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families in Allegheny County

by Amanda Dabbs



Photo by Jim Judkis.

Marcia Sturdivant, Ph.D. (A&S 1978) is deputy director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and an assistant professor at Point Park. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and behavioral sciences at Point Park, a master's degree in criminal justice at the University of Detroit, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. Sturdivant's many honors and awards include the Three Rivers Youth Nully Award for Community Leadership; the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award; the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh Racial Justice Award; and the Valerie Bullard Black Administrator in Child Welfare of the Year Award from the National Association of Black Administrators in Child Welfare.

An expert in program administration, policy development, program evaluation and cultural competency, Sturdivant lectures extensively on both the local and national level on child maltreatment, racism and its effect on child development, family group decision making, spirituality and culturally-based intervention strategies. A leader in the field of child welfare, education and developmental psychology, Sturdivant was an invited participant and research panelist of the Oxford University Educational Roundtable in Oxford, England. Her dedication to helping families extends to the community by service on numerous boards, including the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Inc., the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption Council, the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission on Services to Children and Youth and the American Association of Family

Group Decision Making. Her commitment to persons of color extends globally and she was highlighted in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette for her work with Somalian refugees, cited by the Pittsburgh Courier as among Fifty Women of Influence, Forty Local, Gifted and Black African American Leaders by Pittsburgh Magazine, and is a contributing author of the National Association of African American Studies Monograph Series. Sturdivant talked with The Point:

What is it like to be director of the second largest child welfare agency in Pennsylvania?

MS: There is never a dull moment. It's been a challenging but very rewarding experience. Our agency works with many

◀ POINT to VIEW

different departments but we all come together for the purpose of helping kids. I enjoy managing people and see it as a privilege to engage with families. I have a lot of responsibility in this job and I take it very seriously.

Why did you decide to return to Point Park to teach, and what classes have you taught?

MS: I've always been grateful for my experiences at Point Park so it was important for me to give back. When I was invited to teach, I was very humbled by the opportunity. I love the world of academia and have enjoyed teaching in it. Also, the student body at Point Park is unique and gifted. That is not something you often find elsewhere. I have taught classes in Sociological Foundations, Social Inequality, Theories of Personality, Sociology of the African American Experience, and Community and Family Partnerships.

How have you incorporated your work experiences into the classes you teach?

MS: I provide my students with real-life examples and case studies based on my professional experiences and work with families. Also, several of my psychology students have interned and now work for Allegheny County, either for the Office of Children, Youth, and Families or one of our providers.

Why did you choose Point Park for your own undergraduate education and what role did that play in helping you earn a doctorate degree?

MS: I liked that Point Park offered small class sizes where you can get one-on-one attention. Also, there was just something about the atmosphere at Point Park that intrigued me. It was such an inviting, friendly environment and had a real "family feel" to it. I got a good foundation at Point Park that encouraged me to continue my studies. The professors were very forward thinking. I believe positive undergraduate experiences encourage students to want to continue learning.

What advice do you offer students and others pursuing a career in the social services field?

MS: Learning is applying theory to practice. I tell my students, before graduating, get practical experience through internships, jobs, and volunteering. The theoretical paradigms learned in class will all make sense once you see them in action and can apply them to individual situations. ❖

SPORTS CENTER

The Center for Sports Media and Marketing brings professionals

You never know who you are going to meet at Point Park. When Tom McMillan and Mike Fetchko sat side by side in their communication classes in the mid 1970s, little did they know that the friendship they developed in the rooms of Academic Hall would someday lead to a partnership that benefits their beloved Point Park University.

Together McMillan and Fetchko initiated the new Pittsburgh Center for Sports Media and Marketing at Point Park. The Center brings leading sports executives to campus to provide insights to students on regional, national and international topics and trends in the sports industry.

For Fetchko, who is managing director and owner of ISM-USA, an integrated marketing agency specializing in sports and entertainment, the idea of the Center percolated for several years before he decided to look (just a few blocks away at the Consol Energy Center) to his friend, fellow alumnus and sports executive who shared his passion for Point Park. McMillan, vice president of communications for the Pittsburgh Penguins, embraced the idea of providing a unique opportunity for students who want to learn more about the world of sports and marketing.

"With more than 30 years of experience each, we knew we could mine our contacts and bring professionals to campus to interact with the students and provide great advice and inspiration," notes Fetchko.

University Trustee Timothy McGuire, Ph.D. shared their vision and the idea took hold. The administration supported the concept and the new Center was born, with the goal of impacting the lives of students now and in the future.

Network of Opportunities

Fast-forward 18 months. The Center has already brought in a number of sports industry professionals to campus, and plans are underway to expand the program. In the first year, students heard from CEOs at the Pirates and Penguins, executives from ESPN and TBS, and sports reporters from local and national media. For example, last October more than 100 students attended "Voices of Pittsburgh Sports," which featured play-by-play announcers for the Steelers, Penguins and Pirates.

by Camille Downing



to campus to share insights and interact with students



Opposite page: Center for Sports Media and Marketing founders and co-directors Mike Fetchko (left) and Tom McMillan (both in rear row) with members of the Center's Student Advisory Board. This page, above left: veteran broadcaster Bill Hillgrove, who has served as play-by-play announcer for the Steelers for the past 18 seasons, speaks with a student at the Center's Voices of Pittsburgh event last October. Photos by Chris Rolinson. NBC's Emmy Award-winning play-by-play announcer Mike "Doc" Emrick spoke to Point Park students about sports broadcasting on March 27. Photo by Kris Radder.

"The ESPN event was my favorite," says Matt Desmond, a Point Park senior who plans a career in sports broadcasting. "They showed a lot of different roles in the communications field –not just on-camera but roles behind the scenes that you don't always see."

It's this exposure to industry leaders that is at the heart of the Center's mission to expand the focus from the classroom to networking and experience for future careers. "In addition to academic experience, the Center provides real-world experience," says McMillan. "It's where real meets world."

This includes networking and consulting opportunities that prepare students for work in the business of sports. For instance, students have completed work for the Pittsburgh Power, the NBC Sports Network, the Pittsburgh Penguins and Root Sports.

Engaging Students

"Students from throughout the University benefit from these great opportunities to get an inside look at an entire industry, in this case the industry of sports," says Micky Haney, a graduate assistant for the Center who is enrolled in Point Park's joint M.A. in journalism/mass communication and M.B.A. degree program.

The Center's student advisory board brings together students from various majors who plan and market the programs, meet the speakers, and provide advice on programming. "I jumped at the chance to participate in the advisory board," says Evan Schall, a junior in the Sport, Arts and Entertainment Management program in the School of Business. "Tom and Mike are great contacts to have and they have actively encouraged our input on programs that would be valuable to us. It's been very beneficial to me and to fellow students."

Point Park alumni, such as Pirates announcer Greg Brown, have also responded positively and offered support and expertise. The next step is to form an alumni advisory group that can provide additional guidance, according to Fetchko. "We have dialogue taking place with alumni to expand the program – with the goal of one day being a national Center. It's like a fraternity of alumni who want to give back to the students."

"That's why we wanted to start the Center at Point Park, because we wanted to give back. It's a win-win for everyone." To learn more about the Center for Sports Media and Marketing, visit <http://www.pointpark.edu/Academics/Schools/SchoolofCommunication/CenterforSportsMediaMarketing> ❖



Boom operator Leah Brubeck prepares for an upcoming scene. Photo courtesy of MindFox Productions.



Shawn Bronson (COPA '08), art director for the film *The Umbrella Man*.



Above, top: Point Park students joined together to develop and stage a flash mob in Market Square to promote the upcoming independent film, *The Umbrella Man*. The entire team, from dancers to camera operators, gathered for this group photo including Dr. Travis Fox, director and producer of the behind-the-scenes documentary. Below left: a production meeting of camera operators prior to the flash mob. Below middle: art director and alumnus Shawn Bronson prepares a door for a scene. Below right: setting up a tripod for a shot. All photos this page courtesy of MindFox Productions.

Behind the Scenes

Alumni and students collaborate on production of original film, *The Umbrella Man*

From serving in key production roles in the upcoming independent film *The Umbrella Man*, to leading social media efforts and creating a “behind the scenes” documentary about the making of the movie, Point Park students, faculty and alumni have enjoyed a front row seat.

Filmed in Pittsburgh, nearby Washington County and Dallas, Texas, in October and November of 2012, *The Umbrella Man* film is a tale of love, loss and against-all-odds survival of one couple's relationship. Set in Pittsburgh in 1983, the story follows a father who becomes

engrossed with conspiracy theories after the death of his young son. In the process he stumbles onto the story of the “umbrella man” – a suspected shooter in President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

The original play *The Umbrella Man* is familiar to Pittsburgh audiences. The play's world premiere opened The REP professional theatre company's 2010-11 season at the Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University. The play was directed by Robert A. Miller with story by brothers Michael J. Grasso and Joseph M. Grasso. Miller and the Grasso brothers are now producers of the film. Michael Grasso is also director and

writer, and Joseph Grasso is director of photography and writer, for the movie. Ronald Allan-Lindblom, Point Park associate vice president and artistic director for the Playhouse, sensed early on that *The Umbrella Man* could become an important project for the University. The artistic team's vision to premiere the play at The REP and later film the movie version in Pittsburgh - involving Point Park in all aspects of production - was realized when filming took place last fall. The movie is expected to be released later in 2013, a year that marks the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination.

by Cheryl Valyo

Shawn D. Bronson, a 2008 graduate of the cinema and digital arts program, served as art director for the film. “It was a treat to be able to work with some former classmates and recent graduates,” he said. “It's always a good time reminiscing about a former time in your life and seeing where you've changed as a person and developed professionally.” Young alumni such as Cory Stoken and Eric Odiosa, who earned degrees in cinema in 2012, were also part of the production.

Many Point Park students, from cinema to communications students, were involved in the “behind the scenes” (BTS)

documentary and in developing the social media campaign to promote the film. Travis Fox, Ph.D., a producer on the movie, as well as director and producer of the BTS feature (which will be released with the film and available on DVD later this year), has high praise for Point Park students. Much of the BTS project and social media effort “was done by the students and for the students,” says Fox, a Hollywood veteran who founded MindFox Productions LLC. “That's very rare for a BTS project. The students were very hands-on,” including arranging a flash mob (titled “Who is The Umbrella Man?”) in Market Square to help kick-off the

social media effort. “The students have gone far beyond what is required to complete a practicum or internship. Their dedication is impressive.”

Watch future issues of The Point for more information about *The Umbrella Man* movie.



Follow the social media effort here:
www.facebook.com/TheUmbrellaManMovie
<http://mindfoxproductions.com>
www.imdb.com/title/tt2413958/combined

College Try

CITY Connections enables college-age students with autism and other disabilities to audit classes and experience campus life

by Melissa Williams Schofield

Tim Hallahan (BUS 1992) and Diane (Klenk) Hallahan (A&S 1995) never dreamed their son, Sean, would ever go to college, let alone their alma mater, even though he reads four books in a sitting, writes detailed military history stories and has a photographic memory.

Diagnosed with high-functioning autism, Sean didn't ride a school bus until fourth grade and wore ear protectors to school assemblies to block out the noise. Taking public transportation or getting a job wasn't on Sean's radar.

That all changed when he was 15. He began "travel training" and was shown how to take public transportation (until comfortable riding on his own) to work at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's bookstore in East Liberty, the Carnegie Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Oakland, and Eat 'n Park in Dormont.

This paved the way for Sean's participation in a new program at Point Park, enabling college-age students with autism and other disabilities to experience college life and audit classes through CITY (Creating Individualized Transition for Youth) Connections, and is part of the Program for Students with Exceptionalities in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Point Park is one of three four-year universities in Pennsylvania offering a post-secondary transition program. Sean Hallahan, 18, is one of 12 students in the first-year program for students 18-21 with a high school education.

Diane Hallahan is amazed at what the program has done for her talented son who is "smart in a different way" than the couple's 14-year-old daughter, Nicole.

Sean and his mother ride the T together in the morning. She gets off a stop earlier for her job at Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney at One Oxford Center, where she's a legal assistant. He meets four other students who walk to Point Park together. He rides the T alone to the family's home in the Beechview section of Pittsburgh after his 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. day.

"For Sean to get up and go to school means he's in a comfortable environment. I wondered if he would ever function on his own, and he does just fine. Sean is very independent in the community and Downtown," she says.

The Hallahans feel comfortable with Sean at Point Park because he's used to the urban campus, where the couple met in an organizational development class in 1992. They married a year later. Tim Hallahan, an auditor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is anxious for Sean to pair up with a buddy next semester to take him out of his comfort zone and interact with other students. The next step will be finding a job. Sean Hallahan says the day begins with a team meeting. Students read job postings and current events, and discuss budgets. Some students do community service, while others go to work. Every student has a checking account with a monthly stipend of \$40 from the Pittsburgh Public Schools for food, community

-based and school activities, or clothes for work. "These kids just think different, learn different and process different," says Diane Hallahan.

The Hallahans found out about the program from Gayle Bair, instruction coordinator of CITY Connections. They learned that J. Kaye Cupples, Ph.D., associate professor and program director of the Special Education program at Point Park, was liaison. They think highly of Cupples and knew him when he worked at Pittsburgh Public Schools, where Sean took honors classes.

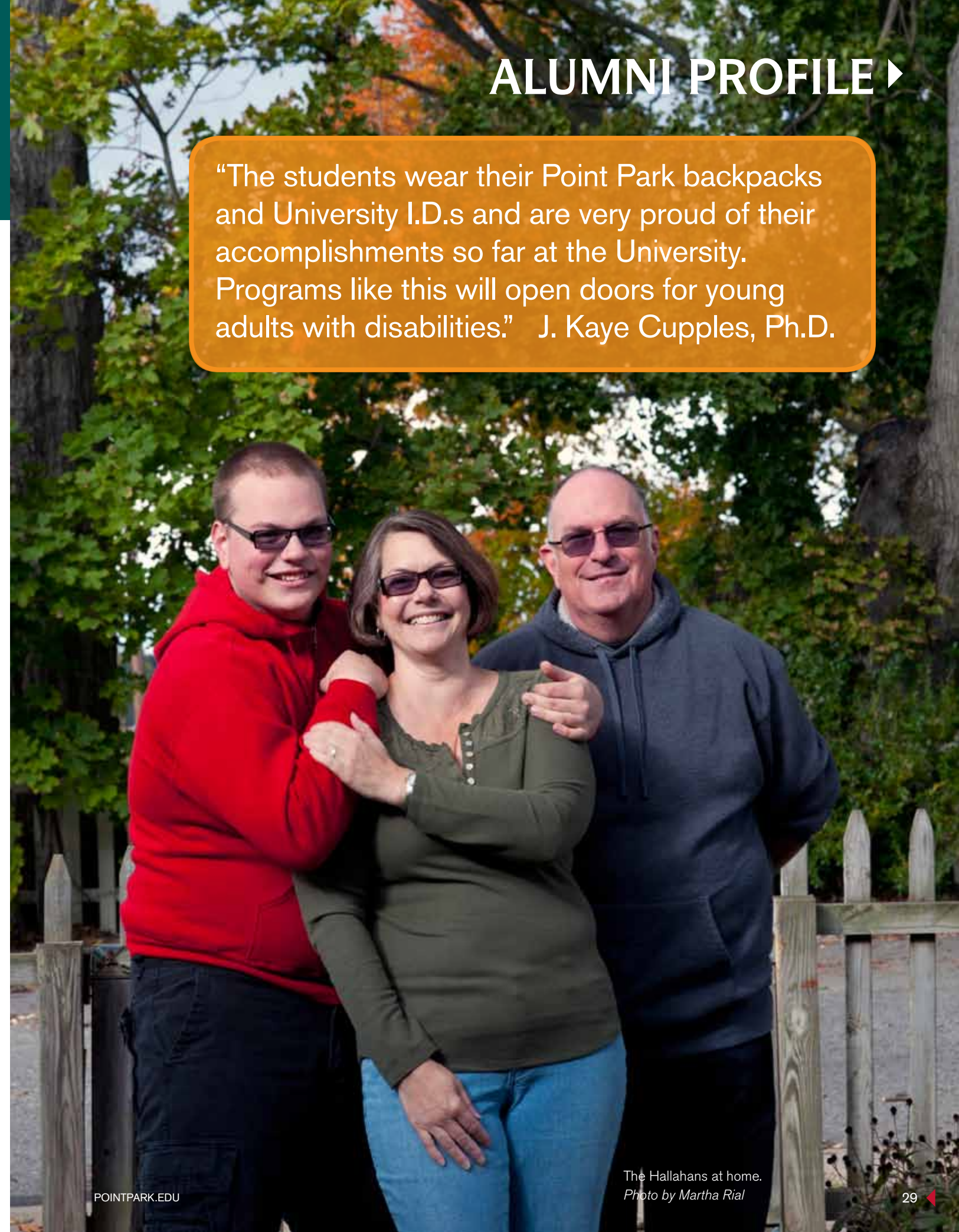
"The students wear their Point Park backpacks and University I.D.s and are very proud of their accomplishments so far at the University. Programs like this will open doors for young adults with disabilities.

"The program has a history of very high graduation rates and positive experiences related to the acquisition and retention of employment in the community. It is gratifying to see these young adults included in both family and community activities just like their typical peers," says Cupples.

Bair, who is in "awe" of the program, says Point Park has been unbelievably welcoming. "With Dr. Cupples' tutelage, this came off without a hitch. When the parents heard he was facilitating, they asked where to sign. The goal is to move students to become as independent as they are able to. This endeavor to work with Dr. Cupples and Point Park is a dream come true." ❖

ALUMNI PROFILE ▶

"The students wear their Point Park backpacks and University I.D.s and are very proud of their accomplishments so far at the University. Programs like this will open doors for young adults with disabilities." J. Kaye Cupples, Ph.D.



The Hallahans at home.
Photo by Martha Rial

ALUMNI CONNECTION ▶



I'm a big believer in giving back to your community, giving back to those who gave to you, and getting involved in causes that mean something to you. All of that being said, I'm a big believer in supporting Point Park University.

I earned my master's degree in communications "back in the day" (1993). Since that time, I have continued to feel a true sense of community at, and an allegiance

to Point Park. That's why for nearly two decades, I've supported the university in a variety of ways: I've hosted a dozen-plus Point Park student interns at my various places of employment. I've taught public relations classes. I've acted as a "client" of upper-level PR classes that collaborate with non-profits. I've served on the alumni board for several years. I also served as 50th anniversary celebration co-chair with fellow alumna Mary Josefowski (COM 1971, 1991).

As Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Rick Haskins mentioned in his letter in the last issue of "The Point," I'm new to this role. One of my goals during my tenure is to rally alumni to become involved with our University - whether it be serving on the board, serving as a mentor, serving as an internship site supervisor, or volunteering for a special event. Whatever your area of expertise is, or wherever your passion lies, please consider giving back to Point Park on some level. Even if you live outside of the area or if you have just a little time to offer, there are still plenty of ways to become involved to give back to an institution that has given so much to us.

Please consider this a call to action, and please consider contacting me so we can find a significant way for you to support this University that we call our own. Write to me at: sorr3@msn.com.

Many thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Susan Orr
President
Point Park University Alumni Association

"I credit much of my professional success to the solid educational background I received at Point Park both inside and outside the classroom. The University transformed my life, and that's what my husband, Art, and I are hoping to help Point Park continue to do for future generations of students."

Susan Kubik Scott (COM 1974) and Arthur Scott
Members, Point Park University Founders Society

ABOUT THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Established in conjunction with Point Park University's 50th anniversary, the Founders Society recognizes the first 100 alumni, trustees, faculty members and friends who make a lasting commitment to Point Park in their wills, trusts or estate plans.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Barb Cinpinski at 412-392-4215 or bcinpinski@pointpark.edu, or visit www.pointpark.edu/FoundersSociety

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY
Founders Society

CLASS NOTES ▶

▶ 1960s

Robert L. Amman, Jr. (A&S 1964) retired from American Water in 2004 after more than 33 years working in various management positions for the company in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Missouri.



Bernard K. Murray (A&S 1964) has been retired for 11 years. He was a teacher for 35 years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and served as

assistant to the president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers for 27 years. After his graduation in 1964, he became a teacher at California University of Pennsylvania. "I have always been proud of Point Park," he writes. Murray encourages more graduates of Point Park Junior College to send in Class Notes.

▶ 1970s



Steve Paulovitch (COM 1970) enjoys his hobby of searching for abandoned trains. "It's known as train-watching," says Paulovitch, a resident of Monroeville, Pa. who earned his degree in journalism and mass communication in 1970. He searches for abandoned trains with "like-minded buds" and his young grandson Paul (when his school schedule permits).

▶ 1980s

Rob Ashford (COPA 1983) will provide musical staging and choreography for the 85th Academy Awards to be telecast on Feb. 24. In making the announcement, show producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron said of Ashford, a Tony and Emmy Award winner: "Rob successfully directed and choreographed both of our recent Broadway revivals, *Promises, Promises* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Not only is he uniquely gifted, but we've developed a working shorthand."

Robert Messinger (COM 1972) wrote a screenplay that earned an award for Best Script in the ENDAS International Screenplay Competition. Messinger's screenplay, *The C.O.*, is about the early days of the war in Iraq. The annual competition, headquartered in Genoa, Italy, draws thousands of entries from around the globe, and winning scripts are often requested by agents and studios. According to Messinger, *The C.O.* "is different than most war dramas not only because it realistically depicts the horrors of modern urban warfare, but also because it dares to challenge the world community's political, religious and moral motivations for waging war." *The C.O.* follows the journey of Matt Wakefield, a career soldier whose life was interrupted when personal tragedy kept him from fulfilling what he believed was his destiny in the first Gulf War. In an effort to regain his sense of self-purpose and to please his hero father, Matt pushes to become C.O. of a secret mission designed to cripple the insurgency in Iraq. "I'm more proud of this script than any other I've done," says Messinger, who has written multiple drafts of the story, one of which was a semi-finalist in Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope screenplay competition in 2006. Messinger plans to use his prize money either to prepare a trailer for *The C.O.* or to prepare a trailer for a new project he hopes to film himself by raising money through Kickstarter.



Lynn Fero (right) and Melanie Verliin in Lawrence Hall Gallery at the opening of Fero's exhibition.

Lynn Fero (COPA 1981, HON '07) is a nationally exhibited fine artist known in particular for her striking landscapes. Her paintings are currently the focus of a show in the Lawrence Hall Gallery, which opened with a reception on Oct. 19, where Fero reunited with friends and fellow alumni such as **Melanie Verliin (COPA 1980)**. As students, Fero and Verliin launched an independent study program in theater management and later founded a non-profit organization together. An executive in the entertainment industry, including her current position as senior vice president of business affairs administration and product rights management at CBS Television Distribution, Fero earned her degree in theatre arts and went on to spend 25 years as an executive with Viacom, Paramount Pictures and CBS. As an artist, she has received Box Heart Gallery's Art Inter/National Best of Show Award in 2003 and was named Box Heart's Artist of the Year in 2004. The Lawrence Hall Gallery is on the corner of the Blvd. of the Allies and Wood St. The exhibition runs through spring 2013 and is free and open to the public.

▶ 1990s

Rafal Kolankowski (BUS 1996, '00) is the owner of Kolankowski Insurance Agency, affiliated with Allstate Insurance, in the Pittsburgh area. A resident of Plum, Pa., Kolankowski is married with three children: Tyler, Luke and Austin. He also coaches soccer for Century United FC.

CLASS NOTES

Celia (Viggo) Wexler (COM 1996) is the author of *Out of the News: Former Journalists Discuss a Profession in Crisis*. The book, published last July by McFarland and Company, profiles 11 journalists from high-profile news outlets ranging from The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal to 60 Minutes and ABC News. Many of these high achievers left mainstream media voluntarily either to explore new ways to practice journalism or to embrace new careers. Point Park Journalism Professor **Helen Fallon** gave her book a great review: "Celia Wexler has written a compelling narrative of these noted journalists that underscores and illuminates the challenging media environment. Their inspiring stories give hope to all of us who love journalism and realize its importance." Wexler is a former journalist and now a public interest lobbyist based in Washington, D.C. She graduated with honors from Point Park and was named "Outstanding Graduate Student in Journalism and Communications." For more information about the book, visit: www.surviving-journalism.com.

Christine Calderone (BUS 1991) was recently promoted to principle business solutions consultant for Microsoft Corporation, overseeing three major accounts in the southeast for Microsoft's Cloud, Communication & Sql Server 2012 solution set. Previously, Christine worked at SAP in technology sales, Akamai. She also worked for the Pittsburgh Steelers for nine years and the Pittsburgh Spirit for two years. She is a native of the Pittsburgh area and has lived in Atlanta, Ga. for the last 15 years. Find her on twitter at @atlantacalderon.

► 2000s

Jordan Haskins (COPA '12) and **Jereme Rodriguez** (COPA '12), are performing in the non-equity national tour of *A Chorus Line*. Junior musical theatre major



Andrea Weinzierl is performing with the same show and plans to finish her degree after completing the tour. All three performed in the Conservatory Theatre Company's production of *A Chorus Line* during the Fall 2011 semester. In the national tour, Weinzierl is in the ensemble as a cut dancer and understudy, Haskins plays Bobby, the same role he played in Point Park's production, and Rodriguez booked the role of Greg. Weinzierl, a Pittsburgh native, says she appreciates "the perks of attending a performing arts university in the city. Downtown Pittsburgh is booming with arts-related opportunities in the Cultural District, and it's within walking distance to campus," she said. "For theatre students, it's like attending the most excellent classroom in the world, receiving training from faculty who are still working in the industry." Rehearsals began last October in New York City and *A Chorus Line* opened Oct. 21 in Tacoma, Wash.

Michael Wagner (BUS '02, '03) is the owner of Target Freight Management, recently named the "Fastest Growing Company in Pittsburgh" by the Pittsburgh Business Times. According to the Business Times, Wagner's company, formed in January 2009, "got off to a slow start but quickly picked up steam, increasing revenue by 2,235 percent between 2009 and 2011, making it the Pittsburgh region's fastest-growing company. "We are growing a lot faster because we are doing different things than (the competition)," [Wagner] said... The company's

primary role is to negotiate freight contractors — they work with about 20 to 25 core trucking carriers — for its customers, saving them between 15 percent to 20 percent on LTL, or less than truckload, shipments. Their sweet spot is small to midsized manufacturers with \$40 million to \$50 million in sales... 'Business is up tremendously from 2008 to today,' Wagner said. ... The firm also has developed its own IT system that can give customers data on trucking to help them run their systems more efficiently, including cost per client, cost per pound and lost opportunities. The system also handles billing and operations tasks that have helped TFM streamline processes. 'Automation has been a key to growing,' Wagner said. 'Technology makes a huge difference when you show a customer the soft-cost savings.'" Read the entire Business Times article here: <http://tinyurl.com/michaelwagner>. Wagner writes that two Point Park professors "were instrumental in my professional development: Dr. William Breslov and Dr. Dimitris Kranioiu. They deserve a lot of credit for my success."



John T. Gobble, III (BUS '11) is a mechanical engineer with Philips Respironics in Plum, Pa. He earned his M.B.A. at Point Park in 2011. "Since earning my M.B.A., I now understand engineering in a completely different light," says Gobble. "At Philips Respironics, I work on different engineering research projects in order to improve and develop new technologies that will help

patients who suffer from sleep apnea/sleep disorder breathing. My M.B.A classes have helped me understand management decisions that are made in regard to certain projects as well as the roles of marketing and advertising." According to Gobble, "three main factors contributed to my decision to attend Point Park. The first was location. Because I was working full time, I needed to attend a college that was close to both my job and my home. The second factor was Point Park's reasonable tuition. Lastly, attending Point Park allowed me to better understand my late father, **John Theodore Gobble, Jr.**, Ph.D. He was the founder of Point Park's criminal justice program. While growing up, I remember his unwavering passion for Point Park's faculty and students. Upon his sudden passing in 2006, I felt like I needed to understand more about him in a professional sense in addition to what I already knew about him as a father. I felt there was no better way to do that than to attend Point Park and get to personally know the students and faculty he cared for so deeply. I now completely understand why he loved the University so much."

Nathan J. Ward (A&S '04) has joined the Medicare Compliance Group of Burns White LLC. Ward's practice focuses on the resolution of Medicare compliance issues that arise in the settlement of workers' compensation and general liability claims.

Jennifer A. Fitch (COM '04) recently released a children's book, *Carson's Big Adventure*. According to Fitch, "in this story about finding your way home, a lovable dog sets out to discover something new. He learns about himself — and what is important — on the journey. A scruffy dog can teach young people an important lesson. A Lancaster County, Pa., native, Fitch now lives in Waynesboro, Pa., and is a full-time reporter for The Herald-Mail. This is her first children's book.



The idea for *Carson's Big Adventure* developed when Fitch's real-life dog slipped out the door on a rainy evening. He returned home on his own about six hours later, prompting speculation about what he had been doing as people searched frantically. A terrier mix, Carson was adopted from the South following Hurricane Katrina and his age is unknown. The book's illustrations are by Liz Vargo, a resident of the Philadelphia area. Appropriate for elementary-aged children, the book includes a reader's guide. *Carson's Big Adventure* is available on amazon.com.



Don Kelly (BUS '06) played the hero for the Detroit Tigers last September when his game-ending sacrifice fly gave the Tigers a 5-4 win over the visiting Oakland Athletics in Game 2 of the American League Division Series in front of 40,684 fans at Comerica Park. Kelly, from Mt. Lebanon, Pa., was an NAIA First Team All-American at Point Park,

where he played from 1999-2001. He was drafted by the Tigers in the eighth round of the 2001 draft and has been in the big leagues with Detroit for nearly every game since 2010. He was sent down to Triple-A Toledo — the first time he had been in the minors since Aug. 2009 — last August as part of roster moves that designated him for assignment. He was a September call-up for the Tigers and played well down the stretch to make the playoff roster. Kelly is no stranger to postseason heroics. He hit a key home run in the 2011 ALDS Game 5 victory over the New York Yankees in Yankee Stadium. Kelly made his Major League debut when he made the Opening Day roster of his hometown Pittsburgh Pirates in 2007. He made it back to the majors in Sept. 2009 after he was the Triple-A Toledo Mud Hens' team MVP that season. He has made the Tigers Opening Day roster in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Douglas M. Vernon (BUS '10) was promoted from technology officer to assistant vice president in the Information Security/Technology Controls Department at PNC Bank. Doug is working towards his master's degree in the School of Leadership and Professional Advancement at Duquesne University. Doug earned a bachelor's degree with magna cum laude honors in business management at Point Park.

Natalie (Urban) Orio (COM '06) was promoted to media client services manager for cj Advertising in Nashville, Tenn. She had previously been a media buyer with the agency, which she joined in 2009. Prior to that, after graduation from Point Park, she worked for ACS Advertising first as account coordinator, then account executive and finally senior account executive prior to leaving the agency for cj Advertising. Orio also recently started her own photography company, specializing in photojournalistic approach to capturing life: www.natalieorio.com. She writes, "I got married in 2007 to

CLASS NOTES

my country singing husband – Anthony Orio (hence my move to Nashville)." His website is www.anthonyorio.com.

Howard Slaughter, Jr., D.Sc., (BUS '01) was selected to chair the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's Policy Committee, which reviews all policy-related decisions, including diversity and inclusion, in housing development. "Dr. Slaughter's extensive housing and community development background, plus his nearly six years of service on our board, have prepared him well for this leadership role as chairman of our Policy Committee," said Brian A. Hudson, Sr., PHFA's executive director and

CEO. Slaughter is the president and CEO of Christian Management Enterprises, LLC and previously served as the president and CEO of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation. He has received the New Pittsburgh Courier's Men of Excellence Award and WOED's African-American Leadership Award for his excellence in civic, community and humanitarian work. A graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh, Slaughter earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, an M.B.A. degree from Point Park and a Doctor of Science degree from Robert Morris University. He has served as both an adjunct faculty

member at the University of Pittsburgh and in 2012, at Point Park University.

Kendra Jorstad (COPA '01) enjoyed the premiere performance of her own new concert tap dance company, jorsTAP chicago, at Stage 773 last November in Chicago. jorsTAP chicago is an all female tap dance company aiming to disrupt the world of tap dance. The performance included seven works of Jorstad's and two guest pieces. The next performance of the company will take place in April and will include collaborations with artists from mediums other than dance. Visit the website at www.jorstapchicago.org.

Anthony Pignetti (COM '08) has been promoted to assistant director of sales for the Reading Phillies baseball team, a A.A. affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. He started working for the team as an intern in 2010 and served as client relationship manager prior to his promotion. A broadcasting major at Point Park, Pignetti was sales manager at WPPJ during his college years.

Shane Portman (COPA '02) has published a book of short stories, *Allister Cromley's Fairweather Belle (Bedtime Stories for Grownups to Tell)*. Based in Los Angeles, Portman describes his book as "an illustrated collection of sepia-tinted tales that adults can read aloud to each other or in quiet to one's self before bed. The idea is to reignite that feeling of wonder from childhood. The stories follow Allister, an adventurer/philosopher on his journey through the early 20th century to find the simple answers to the big questions and the complex answers to the small." The book was edited by **Amanda Gillooly (COM '02)** and the design of the book was created by Portman's fiancée and fellow Point Park alum **Ruth Gamble (COPA '02)**. Each story was illustrated by a different artist, including **Dave Droxler (COPA '01)**, **Marie Elena O'Brien (COPA 1998)** and **Angelica Joy Miskanin (COPA '07)**. "The eclectic mix of images brings to life Allister's ever-evolving view of the world," according to Portman. "Originally, the stories began as a blog. But, having roots in theatre, the stories took a staged turn while I was living in New York. There I had the good fortune of working with some incredibly creative directors and actors to transform the stories into live storytelling experiences." To promote the book and expand the stories further, 14 additional Allister stories are being released as audio recordings on the book's website, www.fairweatherbelle.com, and through iTunes. "Each audio story was given to a different musician to score. The end result

STEELERS MEMORIES ARE PART OF POINT PARK PRIDE

By **Robert Gregg (COM '10)**

September 7, 1986, for most people, was just a regular Steelers Sunday. I was born before kickoff and that made the doctors, nurses, and my loved ones happy. When I was a young lad, I was privileged to be a member of the Pittsburgh Boys Choir and we had the pleasure of singing for Mike Tomczak and his wife at their wedding.

"Lights, camera, and action" is what you heard when you attended the Hines Ward show. Since I was a member of the College Students in Broadcasting Club while attending Point Park, I was able to sit right across from Ward. On that note, I feel lucky that I was attending college while Ward was still playing for the Steelers. The nicest memory that I have of Ward was when he signed my golden

Terrible Towel from the Super Bowl on February 5, 2006. Also, I am glad that I had the chance to be downtown, at Point Park, when Steelers fans were celebrating that day.

After college I was provided with the opportunity to work for Landmark as a security guard at the games during the 2010 – 2011 football season. It was fun to watch Troy Polamalu running the ball. Our defense is always top notch.

In conclusion, the Steelers may not always win, but that doesn't mean that Pittsburghers should lose hope. Hope is something that people are in need of right now. Who better to provide them with it than the Pittsburgh Steelers!

is an eclectic potpourri of sound," writes Portman. "And, again, Point Park alums are a huge part of this wing of the project. [For example] **Sam Rhodes (COPA '05)**, edited the stories and directed me in my narration... All along this journey, collaboration has been key. I learned that early on in my freshman year at Point Park from one of my first mentors, **Sheila McKenna**. And I am so proud and excited about this project, so eternally grateful to the amazing web of creative support and collaboration that I found at Point Park." For more information, visit www.fairweatherbelle.com.

Rachel Carlson (COM '04) is Pittsburgh community manager for Yelp. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism with a concentration in broadcasting at Point Park. "It sounds cliché, but no day is the same [at Yelp]. Some days I'm working on a big event,

like a non-profit fair co-hosted with the Pittsburgh Public Theater called Yelp Helps, or meeting with a local business owner to plan monthly Elite Events (events for very active users on Yelp). Other days I'm setting up marketing sponsorships with local organizations hosting large events or sitting at home or at my favorite coffee shop researching and writing the Weekly Yelp. My job is to connect the local community with all the fantastic local businesses we have in Pittsburgh."



From left: Jasmin Hain, Kelly Cortazzo, and Elisabeth Jensen

Education graduates **Kelly Cortazzo (A&S '12)**, **Jasmin Hain (A&S '12)**, and **Elisabeth Jensen (A&S '11)** have a lot in common. Not only did they recently graduate from Point Park University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in elementary education, they all just landed full-time teaching positions at West Elementary School in Arcadia, Fla. "All three teachers came extremely prepared to begin their teaching careers as they have all exhibited extensive content knowledge,

educational theory, and classroom management skills," remarked Bob Shayman, principal at West Elementary School. "The teacher preparation program at Point Park is doing an admirable job in producing top-quality teacher candidates. I sincerely hope that Point Park and West Elementary School will develop a relationship that will place other highly-qualified teaching candidates on our staff in the future." According to Cortazzo, "My favorite part about teaching kindergarten is that every day is interesting and full of activity. I am always on my feet and being challenged on a daily basis. Students at this age are so eager to grow and learn and their lively spirits are contagious. I love how each one of my students has a unique personality and background." Hain

says, "The moments I enjoy the most are when my students and I are really having a connection. Whether they're excited over something we're doing, really understanding a lesson I'm teaching or if we're all just sharing casual conversation at the end of the day, it's moments like those that make everything I do worthwhile." Jensen comments, "working with children is something that comes naturally to me, so moving into a classroom was an easy transition. I am so thankful to have found a career that I find so gratifying and makes me so happy."

DROP US A NOTE!

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



April Austin (#22)



A team photo of the 2012 Pioneers.



Kristen Veseleny (#11)



Joncelyn Peterkin (#25)



Players huddle with Tony Grenek, head coach.

HOOP DREAMS

Women's Team

Making a National Mark in Basketball and Academics

by Kevin Taylor

The Point Park University women's basketball team is ranked nationally on the court and in the classroom.

The Pioneers, who are coming off their most successful season ever at 23-7 last year, were ranked No. 21 in the Final NAIA Division II Top 25 Poll of the 2011-12 season. In addition to that recognition for on-the-court play, Point Park was ranked No. 20 in the country in academics with a team grade-point average of 3.51.

That well-balanced approach is a testament to the program, which broke through to the national stage for the first time last winter with its first-ever trip to the NAIA Division II national tournament. Not only are the Pioneers achieving never-before-seen heights on the court, they are also taking care of business with their school work.

National Aspirations

"We want to be known as the premier women's basketball program in the City of Pittsburgh and the surrounding area," said second-year head coach Tony Grenek, whose first season was the magical 2011-12 campaign. "Not only do we want to be a national presence with our play, we also want to be highly ranked in team GPA.

"We did a great job in both areas last year with making the national tournament, and being ranked on and off the court. But there's still room for improvement. We won't be satisfied until we are No. 1 in both categories."

That lofty goal is something that, while although seemingly unattainable, was accomplished this past year by Northwestern (Iowa) College. Northwestern won the NAIA Division II national championship

for the third year in a row and also had the best team GPA in the nation a 3.65. Grenek does not see any reason why the Pioneers can't accomplish that same feat, especially with a roster of great young ladies who represent the school so well.

Grenek was hired as head women's basketball coach in March of 2011. He took over from Sam Kosanovich, who stepped down after five years to be the director of Point Park's on-campus Student Center full-time. A women's basketball program that had some down years got on solid footing under Kosanovich, and Grenek's first team was the beneficiary.

Winning Record

The Pioneers have had a winning record the last three seasons, and before that, the program didn't experience a winning season for 15 years.

"I came into a very good situation," said Grenek. "It was a ready-made team with a lot of veterans. Coach Kosanovich built a nice program, and we are very happy to be continuing the improvement of the team."

The 2011-12 season was the best one ever in the history of Point Park women's basketball. The Pioneers set a school record for most wins in a season at 23-7 and won the conference tournament for the first time. The conference championship earned Point Park its first-ever NAIA Division II national tournament invitation. The Pioneers gained entry in the national tournament with a thrilling, 60-48, win over rival Daemen (N.Y.) in the conference finals.

Another first for the Pioneers was cracking the NAIA national rankings for the first time. Point Park spent the last month of the season ranked in the NAIA Division II Top 25 Poll including a No. 21

designation in the final rankings. Although Point Park lost in the first round of the national tournament to No. 10-ranked Corban (Ore.), 60-58, it put on a good showing by taking a top-10 team to the brink of elimination. Senior center Joncelyn Peterkin had a strong game with 17 points and 11 rebounds, and point guard April Austin had 16 points and went over 1,000 points for her career.

The national tournament experience showed the Pioneers they can compete on the national stage, and they are currently in the midst of the 2012-13 season trying to reach the same destination.

In the Spotlight

Back this year as a returning starter is Austin, an NAIA Honorable Mention All-American who scored 1,013 career points in her first three years on campus.

Another returning starter is senior guard Emily Schartner, an NCAA Division I transfer who was the Newcomer of the Year in the conference last year.

The Pioneers had to replace three senior starters from last year's team including Peterkin, a 6-2 center who signed a pro basketball contract in Latvia after graduation. Other senior leaders for the Pioneers were Kristen Beatty and Kristen Veseleny. Katresa Savisky, last year's sixth man, is a returning player this season.

"Reaching the national tournament last year impacted our program in a very positive way," said Grenek. "All our returners want to go back, and they are so hungry to get back there. They are really taking pride in the program, and it's a great feeling as a coach to have that be the case."❖

Kevin Taylor is director of athletics communication at Point Park.



The Pioneers warm up at the Tyson Events Center & Gateway Arena, site of the NAIA Division II national tournament, in Sioux City, Iowa. All photos by Kevin Taylor.



Point Extra

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