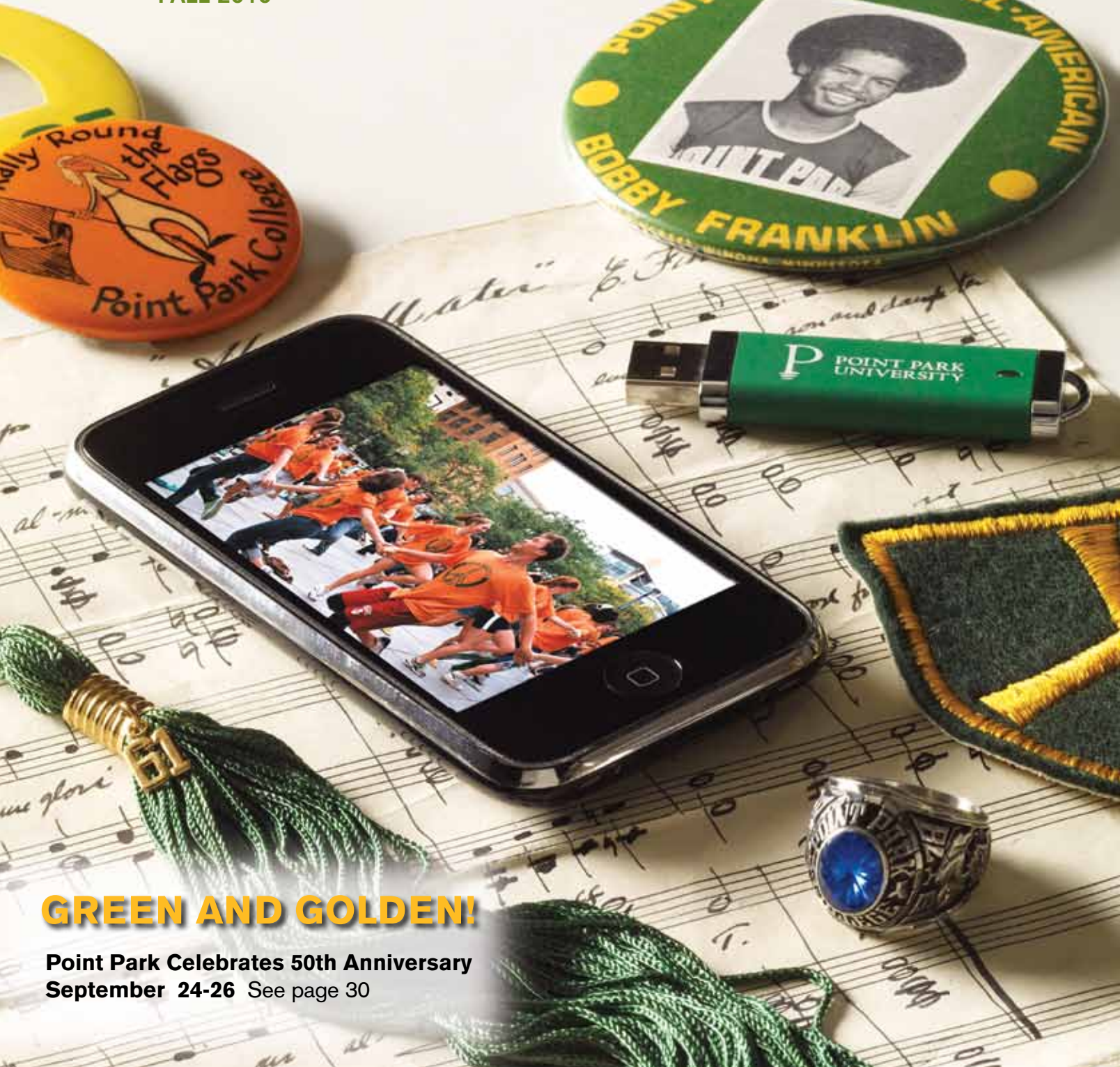


# THE POINT

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends  
of Point Park University  
FALL 2010



**GREEN AND GOLDEN!**

Point Park Celebrates 50th Anniversary  
September 24-26 See page 30

# POINT PARK UNIVERSITY



Dear alumni and friends,

1960 was a memorable time in Pittsburgh history. The Pirates defeated the New York Yankees in one of the most exciting World Series ever. The nation elected John F. Kennedy as the youngest president ever. And it was also the year that Point Park Junior College was born.

The rest is history, as the saying goes. Over the past five decades, the Bucs' fortunes have varied, other historic elections have come and gone, and Point Park has grown from a small junior college housed in just two buildings to a thriving University that continues to produce outstanding graduates—while helping to lead the economic rebirth of Downtown Pittsburgh.

If you haven't seen us lately, this is a great time to reconnect with Point Park. We'll be celebrating our 50th anniversary on September 24-26, an Anniversary Celebration Weekend filled with reunions, performances, campus and city tours, opportunities to visit with faculty from yesterday and today, and much, much more. You won't want to miss this chance to come together to celebrate our shared history and see all the changes on campus and in our Downtown backyard.

For example, our campus has grown dramatically to accommodate our four Schools and growing student population.

The YMCA recently moved into a new home and Point Park is preparing to repurpose its former building on the Boulevard of the Allies into a new Student and Convocation Center. We've also just begun an 18-month project to revitalize the Wood Street Corridor, featuring new trees, lighting, signage and more along the University's main street. The rebirth of our Downtown neighborhood, which also includes new parks, office buildings, hotels and a European-style piazza in Market Square, is an exciting time for all of us.

Through all of the changes, one thing has remained constant: the personal connections among Point Park people. This is the spirit of Point Park. Our alumni have often shared with me stories about relationships with faculty and friends that have endured for years.

This fall, you'll have the chance to make those connections again. We hope to welcome you back on campus in September.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan  
President

President  
Paul Hennigan, Ed.D.

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## TALK TO US!

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

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## On the cover:

The memorabilia on our cover represents five decades of Point Park history. See page 2 for details about each item. Cover photo by Michael Ray. iPhone image by Terra McBride.

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# NEWS AND VIEWS ▶

## On Our Cover

The memorabilia on our cover represents five decades of Point Park history (pictured clockwise from bottom left):

The **tassel** hung from the mortarboard of a member of the Class of 1961 (Point Park became a junior college in 1960).

In 2010, you can instantly connect with the University via [www.pointpark.edu](http://www.pointpark.edu), [twitter.com/pointparku](https://twitter.com/pointparku), **Point Park University Alumni** on Facebook, and more. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/2utwgiz> to see this student flash mob performance during last year's G-20 Summit in Downtown Pittsburgh.

In 1968, Congressman James Fulton gave the college an American flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol. Students wore this **"Rally Round the Flags"** pin in a fundraising drive to repair and illuminate the flagpole atop Lawrence Hall.



**Bobby Franklin**, an inaugural member of the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame, is the all-time leading scorer in Point Park men's basketball history with 2,020 career points. As a senior, he was named an NAIA second-team All-American. Franklin (left) represented the Class of 1977 at the 2010 Commencement (see page 10).

Today, the University's Admissions team presents insignia gear such as this **flash drive** to prospective students.

A **Point Park shield** patch reflects the school colors: green and gold. It was found in a time capsule filled on the occasion of Point Park's 25th anniversary and opened this year in honor of the University's 50th anniversary.

This **1978 class ring** was found on a Florida beach and returned to the Alumni Office. It features the College seal and bison mascot and is inscribed Helal Otaibi. If you can help solve this mystery, call us at 412-392-4204!

The **Alma Mater** for (Point Park's forerunner) the Business Training College was written in 1938 by L. Herbert Finkelhor (husband of first president Dorothy Finkelhor).

*You can see more memorabilia in a display case at the Office of Alumni Relations on the first floor of the Patterson Building on Third Avenue. Special thanks to the University Archives, which documents Point Park's historical and cultural significance as an institution of higher learning through the appraisal, acquisition, organization, and preservation of historically valuable material. The Archives houses yearbooks, documents, images, student newspapers, photographs, the 25th Anniversary Oral History collection, and much more. For information, tours, or to view archival material, call 412-392-3171 or email [library@pointpark.edu](mailto:library@pointpark.edu).*

## ▶ FEEDBACK

**W**hat a surprise to find myself, and a friend, pictured on page 34 of the Spring 2010 issue of *The Point*. We are in silhouette, adjusting the collar on our graduation day in 1962. I am on the left and the graduate on the right is Idelle (Berkowitz) Roth. Idelle and I met in the sixth grade. We attended high school together in McKeesport and both went on to Point Park (at the time Business Training College.) Our graduation was a very exciting day. Dr. Dorothy Finkelhor, who founded the Business Training College,

was so proud and excited to have the school chartered as a two-year junior college, and her pride in her accomplishments was very contagious. The ceremony was very regal, as I remember, and included academic representatives from many

colleges dressed in full academic attire.

For me personally, it was a life-changing event. Had the Business Training College not become Point Park Junior College, I would not have been able,

10 years later, to transfer my credits to Saginaw Valley College (in Michigan) and complete a bachelor of science degree. Subsequently, I passed the CPA exam and spent my professional life as a CPA and a controller of a construction corporation. My friend Idelle transferred her credits in 1962 and completed a bachelor's degree as well. She has had a satisfying career in mental health and family agency work.

— Margaret (Jones) Miller  
Madison, Wisconsin



## Professional Advancement

**Matthew Opdyke**, assistant professor of natural sciences and engineering, was awarded a \$6,000 grant by the Coldwater Heritage Partnership, in collaboration with the Fishing Creek Sportsman Association and Columbia County Trout Unlimited chapter, to conduct his study of Conservation of Coldwater Fishes in Fishing Creek Watershed, Columbia and Sullivan counties. The project was financed in part by a grant from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, and the PA Council of Trout Unlimited. The study will examine the concerns regarding the restriction of native brook trout to the headwaters of Fishing Creek watershed and disappearance of stocked trout in the lower reaches. The project involves two phases: first, to assess the aquatic health and habitat quality of Fishing Creek watershed to determine stressors to native and stocked trout populations, and second, to educate the community on fish conservation and develop a conservation plan to improve habitat and/or water quality for aquatic life in the watershed.

**Dane S. Claussen**, Ph.D., professor and director of graduate programs and faculty development in the School of Communication, delivered the 2010 Leonard Finkelhor Lecture on April 7 in Lawrence Hall. The subject was "Connecting with Bangladesh." Claussen was also elected to the Teaching Committee of the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC). The committee is responsible for such areas as the establishment of standards of professional preparation for teachers in the field; standards of appointment, tenure, promotion, compensation, research and retirement for teachers; standards of equipment and facilities for instruction and research; and representing the committee in matters of accreditation, especially the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism & Mass Communication



Author John Grisham (left) talks with School of Communication faculty members Dane Claussen (center) and Bill Moushey, at a benefit for the Innocence Institute held on campus in March. Grisham was the featured guest at the fundraiser. Photo by Andy Weier (COM 2010).

(ACEJMC). Since 2006, Claussen has served AEJMC as editor of *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*. He is Research Committee chair of AEJMC's Media Management & Economics Division and a former head of AEJMC's Magazine Division, Mass Communication & Society Division and History Division. In addition, he has served on AEJMC's Publications Committee and Diversity Task Force.

**Mark Platts** is the new head coach of Point Park's women's soccer program. A native of Wetherby, England, Platts had been an assistant coach at American Midwest Conference rival Walsh University the last four years. Platts is just the second head coach since the program gained varsity status in 2005. "His college experience is very solid, and he is familiar with the AMC and the NAIA," said Director of Athletics **Dan Swalga**. "He also has a strong handle on recruiting." Platts takes over for **Jeroen Walstra**, who will now focus his efforts entirely as head coach of the men's team.

**Chuck Watkins** has joined Point Park's Development division as coordinator of the phonathon. Watkins is responsible for planning and managing the University's newly revised

phonathon program. Watkins earned a degree in English at the University of Pittsburgh and has eight years of experience in the banking profession, including Citizens Bank, Citibank and PNC Bank. A former assistant branch manager and financial center operations manager, he has expertise in call center settings, training and management, compliance, customer service and sales.

**Douglas Bentz**, professor of dance in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, completed a two-week teaching residency in Kampala, Uganda, in East Africa. The journey was "an incredible life experience," according to Bentz, who enjoyed the challenge of teaching students who had no Western dance vocabulary or exposure. He said, "Dance is the universal language."

**Steven Hallock**, Ph.D., assistant professor of journalism, presented his paper, "Cracking the Glass Ceiling: A Content Analysis of the Hillary Clinton Primary Campaign for President" at the 68th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference last April. Hallock co-authored the paper with **Nabil Shaheen** (COM 2008). The team analyzed major newspaper coverage of 10 events dur-

ing the 2008 Democratic primary presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton. They found that journalists frequently used sexist language in their coverage, but the overall reportage of Clinton's campaign was not framed in sexist terms. Additionally, her spousal connection to former President Bill Clinton did not lead newspapers to treat the presidential candidate differently in their coverage.

**Scott Deutsch** has been appointed environmental, health and safety manager for Point Park. Deutsch previously served the University's Department of Public Safety as chief of emergency services and interim director of public safety. "Scott will use his many years of experience in the safety industry to enhance our environmental, health and safety issues on campus," said **Jeffrey Besong**, director of public safety.

### **Department of Education Offers New Majors and Options**

Point Park's Department of Education now offers a major in education leading to Pennsylvania teaching certifications in pre-kindergarten through grade 4 and special education (pre-K through grade 8) and a major in education leading to Pennsylvania teaching certification in grades 4 through 8 and special education (pre-K through grade 8). For the first time in its history, the education program is offering students the option of a special education dual certification beginning in fall 2010. The Department of Education will also offer majors in secondary and special education, leading to Pennsylvania teaching certifications in both the secondary content as well as special education (grades 7 through 12). The secondary content areas include biology, citizenship, English, mathematics and mass communications. "Students who come

to Point Park to study education are able to choose whether they wish to pursue a single certification or a dual certification with special education," said **Darlene Marnich**, Ph.D., education department chair. "Ultimately we want to help our students understand where their teaching passions lie. From there we can guide them to their ideal educational goal." As schools become more inclusive, special education teachers and general education teachers increasingly work together in general education classrooms. Special education teachers help general educators adapt curriculum materials and teaching techniques to meet the needs of students with disabilities. "The better we can prepare our general educators in special education, the more proficient they will be in teaching all students, including those with disabilities," Marnich said.



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Scholarship winner Michael Glowark with GAI President and CEO Gary DiJidas.

### Student Engineer Wins GAI Scholarship

**Michael A. Glowark**, a civil engineering technology major at Point Park, received a \$5,000 Engineering & Environmental Science Scholarship from GAI Consultants and a paid summer internship at the company's Pittsburgh headquarters. GAI is a multidiscipline engineering and environmental consulting firm, serving clients worldwide in the energy, transportation, real estate, water, municipal, government and industrial markets. The award was one of four presented by GAI to support "tomorrow's engineering and environmental professionals," according to President and CEO **Gary DeJidas** (A&S 1972). "Each scholarship winner shows tremendous promise in fields of engineering and science, and we are excited to help advance these talented individuals' bright futures," he said. Candidates who perform well during their internship are considered for full-time employment upon graduation. Three 2009 interns were hired as GAI employees, including Point Park graduate **Brad Kughn** (A&S 2009), a transportation engineer. Other recipients have included students at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.

### Point Park Goalie Signed by Pittsburgh Riverhounds

Former Point Park goalkeeper **Steve Fabian** was signed by the professional soccer team the Pittsburgh Riverhounds. A Delaware native, Fabian completed his career as a four-year starter at Point Park after the 2008

season. After graduating the following spring, Fabian spent the summer of 2009 as the starting goalie for the New Orleans Jesters of the Premier Development League (PDL). "This is a big achievement, and it has been a goal of mine that last two years," said Fabian of joining the Riverhounds. "I am still very young in my soccer career, but this is a great step for me." **Jeroen Walstra**, the Point Park men's soccer coach, said, "Steve had a great career at Point Park, and it is great for our program and the American Midwest Conference to have him move on in his career."



New Riverhound Steve Fabian

### Students Receive Intercollegiate Broadcasting Awards

Two Point Park students received awards at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference, a national gathering of college-based radio stations held last March in New York City. **Anthony Costulas**, a sophomore in political science, won the award for "Best Feature Report." Costulas got involved with WPPJ, Point Park's student-run radio station, during his freshman year. He began by hosting a political talk show, became assistant news director last fall, and was hired as the station's general manager in spring 2010. Junior broadcasting major **Josh Frketic** won the award for "Best Play-by-Play Coverage." Frketic served as sports director for WPPJ

and presents live remote radio broadcasts for Point Park athletic events.

### PCKIZ Business Competition Team Launches Tech Start-up

Since launching their high-tech startup several months ago, Point Park alumnus **Brad Smith** and his team—including three current M.B.A. students—have been working hard to carve a niche in the Western Pennsylvania market. Now, they have more contacts and expert advice to guide the growth of their company, TeamProjectsOnly Inc., a business-to-business firm focusing on information technology services. This spring, the team competed in the final round of the 2010 Business Idea Challenge, a program of the Pittsburgh Central Keystone Innovation Zone, hosted at Point Park on April 12. During the competition, a panel of economic and business development experts evaluated the presentations and provided feedback. "This was a great venue for us to do a live presentation of our product," said Smith, CEO and president of the young firm. The group represented Point Park in the final round after winning first place in a preliminary round out of six student entries. In the final round, TeamProjectsOnly took third place. Smith, who earned a bachelor's degree in information technology and management in 2005 and an M.B.A. in 2007, incorporated TeamProjectsOnly on Jan. 1. The team also includes Point Park M.B.A. students **Felicia Kmetz**, **Melissa Altman** and **Lawrence Burkhardt**, who developed the company's marketing plan as a project for their M.B.A. 572 class.

### Journalism Team Wins Award in Regional Competition

A Point Park student journalism team earned third place at the first foundation-sponsored journalism competition in the region. Seniors **David Hoedeman**, print journalism; **Emily Newman**, print journalism; and **Nicole Porter**, broadcasting, were among 18 groups of students who worked in teams to produce a

range of media reports for this year's Women's Health and the Environment Conference last May. Visit [www.pointparkjournalism.com/health.html](http://www.pointparkjournalism.com/health.html) to view the team's presentation.

**Undergraduate Humanities Conference**

The Department of Humanities and Human Sciences hosted an Undergraduate Humanities Conference on April 23 in Lawrence Hall. Student panels covered humanities topics ranging from global cultural studies to Victorian literature. The event included a dinner, awards ceremony and keynote speakers **Rachel Smith, Ph.D.**, and **Lisa Cosgrove, Ph.D.** Smith discussed contrasting views of patriotism in novels written after September 11, 2001. Her work encompasses literature, politics and contemporary culture. Cosgrove is a psychologist and graduate program director at University of Massachusetts, Boston. She develops training practices that help mental health professionals think critically and avoid bias in clinical research and practice. The conference was open to the public.

**Alternative Spring Break Takes Students to New York and New Orleans**

Last spring, Point Park sponsored two alternative spring break trips to New York City and New Orleans. Participating students discussed their experiences in a presentation on campus in the J VH Auditorium on March



Director of E-Learning Karen Hall (left) with Project Children LEAD director Vincenne Revilla Beltran, Ph.D.

18. Both groups combined sightseeing with volunteer work to help those in need. In New York, students cleaned up a city park, assisted homeless people and helped a non-profit organization prepare for a fundraiser. In New Orleans, the Point Park group helped build Habitat for Humanity houses in an area devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

**Women of Humility Gala**

The Black Student Union hosted the 2010 Women of Humility Awards Gala at Point Park in the Lawrence Hall lobby on March 25. The event honored a group of Pittsburgh women for their commitment to diversity, professional achievement and leadership. Guests enjoyed live music throughout the evening. **Doris Carson-Williams**, president of the African-American Chamber of Commerce was the

keynote speaker. The honorees were **Candi Castleberry-Singleton**, UPMC; **Nancy D. Washington, Ph.D.**, Community Champion; **Gretchen Haggerty**, United States Steel; **Marsha Ellis Jones**, PNC Bank; and from Point Park University: **Karen McIntyre, Ph.D.**, vice provost and dean of faculty; **Angela Isaac, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Business; and **Helen Fallon**, director of the Honors Program and professor in the School of Communication.

**Project Children LEAD Hosts Multicultural Conference**

Point Park's Project Children LEAD (Learning Early to Appreciate Diversity) hosted its fifth Multicultural Conference on campus on May 7. The annual conference gives educators and administrators a forum to explore innovative ways to improve multicultural education through interactive learning. This year's event explored the use of Second Life as a medium for professional development and teaching, how to use video conferencing technology to engage students in collaborative learning and active versus interactive learning. The main objective of the Project Children LEAD curriculum is to teach children early to appreciate human diversity in their classrooms, families, neighborhoods and communities, according to **Vincenne Revilla Beltran, Ph.D.**, director and founder. For more information, visit [www.childrenlead.org](http://www.childrenlead.org) or contact Beltran at [vrevilla@pointpark.edu](mailto:vrevilla@pointpark.edu).

USA Today and ESPN sports columnist/commentator Christine Brennan meets with School of Communication broadcasting students during the March 2010 School of Communication annual media visit to Washington, D.C. Photo by Jan Getz.





### Remembering Mary Catherine Dykhouse

Mary Catherine Dykhouse, a soprano and coordinator of the voice program at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, died April 16 after a long battle with cancer. She was 46. In her obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Dykhouse was remembered as a teacher who “took delight in applauding and following her students’ work,” according to her husband, **Joe Stuligross**. More than 50 of her former students now perform on Broadway, with regional theater companies or on national tours. “She was very proud of that,” he said. Stuligross said his wife had a quick wit, warned students that no good decision was ever made after midnight and could be sharply, yet playfully, candid about a student’s performance. “She was an integral part of our work here,” said **Ronald Allan-Lindblom**, dean of the Conservatory of Performing Arts and artistic director of the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Teaching artist **Sandra Greciano** said, “She was a very dear soul. She helped everyone with anything they needed, she always had time for you, and she did her work with joy. Her students loved her dearly.” (To view a “celebratory cabaret” for Dykhouse, featuring students, faculty and friends, see [www.ustream.tv/recorded/6395118](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/6395118)). Memorial gifts may be sent to: Mary Catherine Dykhouse Voice Scholarship Fund, Point Park University, Office of University Advancement, 201 Wood St., Pittsburgh 15222.



School of Communication faculty (from left) Heather Starr Fiedler, Jan Getz, Helen Fallon, Bob O'Gara and Chris Rolinson accompanied 39 students on the annual media visit to Washington, D.C., in March.

### Correction/Clarification

*In the Spring 2010 issue of The Point, we incorrectly reported the title of a scholarship awarded to School of Communication student Miles Ritenour by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Ritenour received the Bob O'Gara Student Scholarship from the PRSA.*

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Right: Artist's rendering of the planned running track inside the new Student and Convocation Center. Opposite: The new center as it will look after renovations and expansion of the former YMCA building on the Boulevard of the Allies.



# Richard King Mellon Foundation Awards \$4 Million Grant toward New Student and Convocation Center

by Cheryl Valyo

As Point Park advances its Academic Village Initiative, a \$244 million campus and public enhancement space plan, it announced in May that it has received a \$4 million grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the largest gift ever to the University from a foundation or individual. The grant will support renovation and construction of the University's new Student and Convocation Center, at 330 Boulevard of the Allies in Downtown Pittsburgh.

"The Richard King Mellon Foundation is pleased to make this gift to Point Park in support of a progressive university and its innovative plan for the Academic Village," said Scott Izzo, director. "Dr. Hennigan's leadership and vision have instilled the foundation with great confidence in the value of this project for the community."

The foundation's \$4 million award includes a matching grant, contingent upon raising like funds from alumni and individuals.

"The Student and Convocation Center will become the hub of our campus and student activities," said President Paul Hennigan. "The support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation is critical to our success in providing academic and recreational spaces for our students and an amenity for the Downtown community. We are grateful for the foundation's generosity in helping us to become one of the most dynamic private, urban universities in America."

Formerly home to the YMCA, 330 Boulevard of the Allies is a 115,000-square-foot facility built in 1985 and acquired by Point Park in 2008. The new Student and Convocation Center will provide a rich assortment of academic, student life and athletic amenities that will enhance the educational, social and physical experience for students.

The center will house a 1,000-seat varsity basketball arena that can convert to convocation space. The University's athletic

department will be located there, as well as locker and training rooms for students and teams, a fitness center and running track, bookstore, meeting rooms, academic areas, dining services and activity spaces.

Point Park has set a goal to have construction of the new Student and Convocation Center, a \$32 million project, to begin by the end of 2012.

Beginning in fall 2010, students, faculty and staff will be able to use renovated sections of the existing building for expanded recreation, fitness and office space. See the Winter 2010 issue of *The Point* for a closer look at these interim fitness and recreation facilities in the former YMCA building.



## The largest gift in the University's history will support construction of the centerpiece of the Academic Village Initiative

### New grants support Academic Village and Playhouse

Point Park's Academic Village Initiative and other campus endeavors continued to move forward with support from additional foundation grants.

The University received a \$250,000 grant from the Hillman Foundation to support the Academic Village and Wood Street Corridor project. The funds will be used toward construction of the planned urban park at the corner of the Boulevard of the Allies and Wood Street.

Point Park also received a \$32,000 grant from the Samuel and Carrie Arnold Weinhaus Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation. The grant provides general operating support for Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse.

### Wood Street Construction begins

An 18-month construction project to revitalize the streetscape along Wood Street got under way in the summer of 2010. Point Park's main street is set to bloom with new trees, lighting, signage, paving and much more. The streetscape will complement design plans for the corner park.

The enhancements will include the planting of Frontier Elm trees along Wood Street between Ft. Pitt Boulevard and Third Avenue. According to University Architect Elmer Burger, who is overseeing all of the Academic Village projects, the upgrades will not only provide a pleasant environment, "but it will also be one of the first visual cues that visitors are in the University's neighborhood."

# University Celebrates 50th Commencement

## Alumni from 50 graduating classes represented at May 1 ceremonies

by Terra McBride

The Point Park community celebrated its 50th commencement on Saturday, May 1, at Mellon Arena. Point Park graduates Shea Mihm Gopaul and Rob Ashford gave the address for the hooding and commencement ceremonies respectively.

The graduates' excitement for the day was palpable. The new alumni exchanged hugs and congratulatory words with each other, their friends and family amidst bobbing balloons and fragrant flowers.

This year's ceremonies marked Point Park's 50th year as a degree-granting institution. The University invited alumni from each of the 50 graduating years as well as former faculty and University presidents to partake in the celebration. The alumni processed into the ceremony with the 2010 graduates, holding signs to represent their graduation year. A reception for the participating alumni followed commencement.

The day's speakers had their own special messages to deliver to the graduates.

Shea Mihm Gopaul, a 1976 graduate of Point Park and director of administration for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), addressed the master's degree

graduates during the hooding ceremony. (Meet Shea Gopaul on page 12).

"As students at Point Park, you have been taught to dissect, to analyze, to question," said Gopaul. "To become sophisticated thinkers you were urged to critique your peers and focus on nuances. However, I would suggest to you that finding commonalities and trying to simply connect is a more effective goal at times."

Rob Ashford, a 1983 graduate of the University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and acclaimed Broadway choreographer, gave the undergraduate commencement address.

"Today is a momentous occasion. There is momentum in the momentous," said Ashford. "I encourage you all when you leave here to let your momentum show.... Do not allow fear to alter your path. Put fear away as you put your cap and gown away."

Michelle Guaragno, a graduate from the School of Arts and Sciences with a biological sciences degree, gave the outstanding graduating senior address during the commencement ceremony. "Education is the foundation to unlock a golden door of opportunity to a limitless future," she said.





## ► MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Opposite page, top: Alumni wore gold sashes to represent the University's 50 graduating classes at Point Park's 50th Commencement celebration. Below: Christine (Contis) Peters (A&S 1961, BUS 1983) joins Carrie Potter (COM 2009). This page, clockwise from top left: Point Park President Paul Hennigan (left) joins former presidents Katherine Henderson and J. Matthew Simon at a commencement reception; (from left) Lawrence Shields, Esq. (A&S 1967) and Rick Haskins (COM 1971); Linda Kistler (A&S 1972), carrying the sign for the Class of 1962, is followed by Carmen D'Ambrosia Jr. (BUS 1963) and representatives from succeeding classes in the academic procession; the 50th Anniversary class representatives; Ralph Villiotti (BUS 1998) with daughter and fellow alum Maria Villiotti (COM 1999); members of the Class of 2010 celebrate their achievements; (from left) President Hennigan presents an honorary degree to acclaimed choreographer and director Rob Ashford (COPA 1983), who served as commencement speaker; (from left) Bettie (King) Cole (COM 1982), Janet (Daschbach) Evans (A&S 1980) and Juanita (Balliard) Carter (A&S 1979) share Point Park memories at a commencement reception.

# ALUMNI PROFILE ▶



## Former dance major now on world stage at United Nations

By Nancy Commella

# Global Performance

“Actually, I never sat still,” responds alumna Shea Mihm Gopaul, speaking about her time at Point Park, where she completed high school (yes, high school) and two bachelor degrees, in dance and history, in only six years.

The same determination, discipline and desire to learn can be seen throughout Gopaul’s professional life, which has culminated in her position as the director of administration for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

“The structure of the programs was such that you had to be disciplined, you had to be organized, you had to be determined and hardworking to get through what we had in front of us, the challenges, and I think I’ve always kept that.”

Not surprisingly, then, this former Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and Civic Light Opera performer oversees OCHA administration at headquarters offices in New York and Geneva and at 33 field offices. During natural disasters and complex emergencies, Gopaul and the teams she directs work to provide ground resources to coordinate humanitarian assistance. This includes support in areas such as human and financial resources, procurement, travel and general administration. With government approval, OCHA sends a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination team within days of an emergency.



In Haiti, for example, OCHA’s existing small office and staff luckily survived the earthquake; however, some staff lost family members. OCHA dispatched additional teams, which established an office within days and undertook a “flash appeal” worldwide to secure resources, Gopaul explains. “Our staff on the ground, even though they had lost some of their own family members, they were still trying to work in the relief effort for Haiti, which is absolutely incredible.”

During crises, Gopaul and her staff work long hours, including weekends. But long hours have been a way of life for Gopaul since she was 12 and first introduced to Point Park through ballet classes at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. After school, the Pittsburgh native would ride a bus to Point Park for rehearsal every night and weekend, preparing for shows such as the Nutcracker. That scenario continued when Gopaul entered Point Park’s Academy for Performing Arts, a high school that operated from 1970-1973.

She received early admission to Point Park College, and after graduating cum laude, obtained her master’s in international development from Columbia University in New York City. She moved with her husband, fellow Point Park alumnus and new University Trustee Kishore K. Gopaul (see page 25), to his home country, Mauritius, where she simultaneously started a ballet school and taught world affairs at two schools.

She lived overseas for 32 years, working in the private and public sectors — Amoco and the British Embassy in Gabon, the International Labor Organization and World Health Organization in Switzerland — all while raising a son and daughter. While overseas, Gopaul visited Pittsburgh every year, where her family still resides. It is her family and the diverse, rigorous curriculum of her education that this classical ballerina attributes to helping her move gracefully through her life.

“There’s no question that I credit my success, both in my career and life, to the very strong education that I received at Point Park,” says Gopaul who addressed graduates at the master’s degree hooding ceremony at the 2010 Commencement (see page 10). “It was not just a question of reading books, but also understanding and appreciating contrasting views and cultures.”

Opposite: Shea Gopaul. Photo by Jim Judkis.

# Point Park develops *The Umbrella Man* for stage and screen

## More in store for arts patrons at the Playhouse

By Colleen C. Derda



Ronald Allan-Lindblom

During the initial meeting with producer and director Robert A. Miller and two screenwriters, Ronald Allan-Lindblom sensed that *The Umbrella Man* could become an important project for the University. Yes, the screenplay could be adapted for the stage and possibly premiere at The REP, the University's professional theater company, said Lindblom. But let's not stop there. Let's shoot the movie version in Pittsburgh and involve Point Park in all aspects of the film.

That's exactly what's happening this fall. In September, The REP will produce the world premiere for the stage. In November, the University's cinema and digital arts department will begin work on the full-length feature film.

"We take great pride in providing students with access to internationally recognized professionals through our guest artist program and our teaching artists," said the dean of the Conservatory of Performing Arts. "*The Umbrella Man* creates an opportunity for Point Park's cinema students to be involved with some of the best in the business from the start of shooting through post-production."

Miller, the film's producer and play's director, knew the partnership would be fruitful based on his past work with the University and more than 30 years as a director, producer and screenwriter. "Pittsburgh and Point Park have the talent, the locations and the editing facilities to make this project work," he says.

Richard Arlook and Jonathan Miller are executive producers. Michael J. Grasso and Joseph M. Grasso are co-directing. The Grasso brothers and Edward J. Delaney wrote the story on which Delaney based *The Umbrella Man* screenplay and play.

"The play will showcase the depth of the characters," says Miller of The REP production September 10 - 26, at the Rauh Theatre in the Pittsburgh Playhouse. "The adaptation works on so many levels. And there is enormous value in having the play done first, then the movie made. The play will inform the movie, no doubt about it."

*The Umbrella Man* is a tale of love, loss and against-all-odds survival of one couple's relationship. Set in the late 1980s in Pittsburgh, the play follows Lyle Asay's downward spiral from grief and guilt over his young son's death and an obsession with conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Equity production features David Cabot as Lyle, Dana Hardy as Deborah Asay and 10 other Pittsburgh-based actors. Scenic design is by Stephanie Mayer-Staley. Lighting design is by Lloyd Sobel, sound design is by Steve Shapiro, and video design is by Jessi Sedon.

With the three remaining REP productions directed by women — Kim Martin directs *The Lonesome West*, Robin Walsh directs

*La Ronde*, and Melissa Martin directs the world premiere *Mercy and the Firefly* — this fall the Playhouse will host a panel discussion about women directors, playwrights and other professionals.

In late October through early November, Conservatory Theatre Company dances its way into the Rockwell Theatre with *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, directed by Scott Wise. In November the company welcomes George Ferencz of New York's La Mama Experimental Theatre Club to direct *Casino Real* by Tennessee Williams. The student company then produces the musical *She Loves Me*, directed by Jack Allison, to round out the semester.



Bob Miller

The Conservatory Dance Company presents the Student Choreography Project and Pittsburgh Connections in the George Rowland White Performance Studio downtown before returning to the Playhouse for *The Bench*, a new holiday favorite conceived and choreographed by Kiesha Lalama-White.



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### The REP

World Premiere

#### *The Umbrella Man*

Written by Edward J. Delaney

Based on the screenplay

#### *The Umbrella Man*

Written by Edward J. Delaney

Story by Edward J. Delaney,

Michael J. Grasso

Joseph M. Grasso

Directed by Robert A. Miller

Rauh Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

**September 10 – 26, 2010**

#### *La Ronde*

By Arthur Schnitzler

Translated by Frank and

Jacqueline Marcus

Directed by Robin Walsh

Studio Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

**October 8 – 24, 2010**

### Conservatory Dance Company

#### *Student Choreography Project*

George Rowland White

Performance Studio

Point Park University Campus

**October 1 – 3, 2010**

#### *Pittsburgh Connections*

George Rowland White

Performance Studio

Point Park University Campus

**November 12 – 21, 2010**

#### *The Bench*

Conceived and Choreographed

by Kiesha Lalama-White

Music composed by David Lalama

Guest Artist Ralph Lalama

Rockwell Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

**December 10 – 19, 2010**

### Conservatory Theatre Company

#### *Thoroughly Modern Millie*

Book by Richard Henry Morris

Music by Jeanine Tesori

New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan

Directed by Scott Wise

Rockwell Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

**October 29 – November 7, 2010**

#### *Camino Real*

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by George Ferencz

Studio Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

**November 19 – December 12, 2010**

#### *She Loves Me*

Book by Joe Masteroff

Music by Jerry Bock

Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Directed by Jack Allison

Rauh Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

**December 10 – 19, 2010**



# Hot News, Served Fresh

by Colleen C. Derda

## Point Park News Service prepares journalists for professional success in a changing media landscape

As a video reporter and producer working for a newspaper, Justin LaBar (COM 2009) is on the cutting edge of the media business. His colleagues at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review say he's helping to change the way the paper interacts with its readers, and he already has an award from the publisher to his credit.

LaBar credits the Point Park News Service with helping him turn a story idea into a professional opportunity.

As a senior broadcast major, LaBar wanted to produce a video blog of the hoopla surrounding the Pittsburgh Steelers' appearance at the 2009 Super Bowl. News service director Andrew Conte and adjunct professor Jesse Colaizzi helped him interest the Tribune-Review, and soon LaBar and fellow broadcast student Josh Frketic found themselves interviewing fans and former players and coaches in Tampa, Fla. Back in

Pittsburgh, Steelers fans quickly found the Point Park News Service videos on TribLive.com and for weeks made them the site's most popular videos.

Conte says LaBar is one of many former students who have used the Point Park News Service to gain hands-on experience and contacts with newspapers and other media outlets. The news service director, who also is an award-winning reporter for the Tribune-Review, says the wire service helps students learn about professional roles and how to work as part of a team of journalists.

"The students are getting clips and experience. And the news organizations, especially with cutbacks, are always hungry for new content," says Conte in a 2009 issue of Quill magazine. The Society of Professional Journalists turned to the Point Park News Service founder when looking at the future of the elite group of university news services.

At Point Park, 10-15 students take the advanced-level news service course each semester and commit to a specific number of written stories, videos and photojournalism projects. The program's partner, Trib Total Media, regularly selects works for publication in its newspapers and Web sites and provides bylines, photo credits and stringer fees for the students. The University posts students' work to the news service website, where other media outlets also can tap into the fresh perspectives.

Both undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to contribute to the news service.

Kim Kweder (COM 2007) says she honed her writing skills during two semesters as an undergrad and learned much from her instructor about creating content.

"Andy Conte was always working with us on how to get out there, talk to people and find stories," says Kweder. "He knew

exactly how to make a piece come to life and what key points would make it interesting all the way through."

Kweder parlayed her news service experience and research for a media ethics class into a job writing features for The Baltic Times in Vilnius, Lithuania. She then moved to Washington, D.C., and found a job in copy editing with the Washington Times. Today the 24-year-old works for the World Bank as a social media consultant and Web writer.

Jodi Weigand (COM 2007) says the news service also helped her to strengthen writing skills.

"I learned how to be a good reporter at the Point Park News Service," says the 30-year-old, who after years working in radio, began graduate studies and soon enrolled in the news service courses. Weigand used the experience over two semesters to obtain a newspaper internship. She soon became a full-time writer with the Trib p.m. and today is a general assignment writer for the Tribune-Review morning paper.

Another graduate student, Gina Puppo (COM 2007), wanted to "switch gears" after several years in television news production and work as a journalist on the Web. She says her news service experience and contacts resulted in a job offer with Trib Total Media. In early 2010 Puppo became community coordinator for TribLive.com and now posts stories and photos to multiple "Your Town" sites.

Maintaining the content puts Puppo in the heart of the participatory and collaborative world of journalism today. And she credits Point Park with preparing her to dive in.



Daveen Kurutz McLaughlin (COM 2009), an education writer for the Tribune-Review, agrees. The 27-year-old says Point Park students are trained to think about "not just the story, but the total package."

Kurutz is one of the many journalists who return to the news service to share their on-the-job experiences.

"Students who participate in the news service while they are at Point Park gain more than experience and networking contacts," says Justin LaBar, the video reporter and producer. "They know future benefits can result at any time. You never know who will see your work."

Visit [pointparknewsservice.com](http://pointparknewsservice.com) to view videos, articles and photos by Point Park News Service students.

Opposite page, from left to right: Andrew Conte, director of the Point Park News Service and investigative reporter at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, with Point Park graduates who are now employed by Trib Total Media: Daveen Kurutz McLaughlin, reporter at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review; Gina Puppo, community coordinator, PittsburghLive.com; Rachel Weaver, editor of the Sewickley Herald; Justin LaBar, multimedia reporter for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review; Lucy Leitner, freelance correspondent for Trib Total Media; Jodi Weigand, reporter at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Above: Justin LaBar (COM 2009) records broadcast footage of Pennsylvania Auditor General and gubernatorial candidate Jack Wagner. Photos by Christopher Rolinson.

# Exploring the Depths of Developmental Biology

By Nancy Commella

## Research on zebrafish and plants may aid fight against cancer and other diseases



Diane Krill

While Point Park may not come to mind when thinking of research universities, research is being conducted here that could have implications in fighting cancer and heart disease.

“It could have agricultural as well as potential medicinal impact,” says Diane Krill, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, speaking in general terms about her current research with zebrafish and plants. The developmental molecular biologist will speak more specifically about her research over the past year and a half when it is published, most likely this fall.

Krill has been working with students in her developmental biology and molecular biology lab classes to conduct the research. Zebrafish are ideal to study heart development as well as angiogenesis, the development of blood vessels, because zebrafish eggs are transparent. “While they are developing, you can watch the heart start to beat, the fluid start to circulate in the vessels,” explains Krill. She says trying to develop compounds that may interrupt the

development of blood vessels could be beneficial, for example, in the treatment for a tumor.

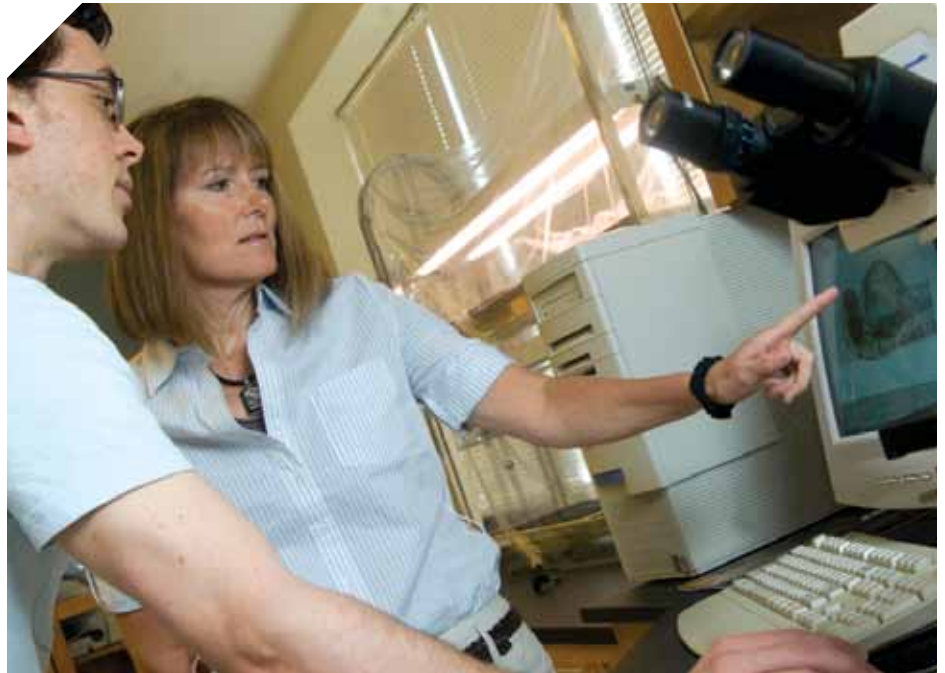
Zebrafish are also popular for research because these simple vertebrates have similarities with humans, according to Krill. “There is a lot of homology between the human gene and the zebrafish gene that is expressed during the process of heart development.” The fact that a zebrafish egg hatches quickly into a free-swimming form, within 72 hours, is another positive aspect. Krill and her students breed the fish, collect the eggs and track their development. They use different dyes to emphasize the blood vessels, and with the help of a fluorescent microscope, photograph the embryos in 3D and shoot live video to study the development, all without disturbing the natural process: at 24 hours, the beginning of eye, brain and heart development; at 48 hours, eye movement, beating heart, circulation; and at 72 hours, major organs and systems are formed.



While the zebrafish provide the lens to understand the development of the heart and blood vessels, Krill's plant research enables the purification of compounds, some of which can help in combating cancer, such as in tumor treatment. "I was interested in looking at the different chemicals that plants produce for potential medicinal benefits," says Krill of the plant research being done in her class. Krill and her students planted seeds and extracted from the plants a class of compounds called flavonoids. They then separated and purified the compounds by using high pressure, liquid chromatography. After that, they began their testing. On a research sabbatical during fall 2009, Krill went to Charleston, S.C., to use equipment at the Hollings Marine Laboratory to assist with the research.

**"There is a lot of homology between the human gene and the zebrafish gene that is expressed during the process of heart development."**

In contrast with the zebrafish development, the entire plant process takes up to six months, from seed planting, plant growth and transplantation to extraction and purification of the compound. The compounds are formed in small quantities, so the time required for plant



Laboratory technician John Madden and Associate Professor Diane Krill work with a fluorescent inverted microscope in the biology lab in Academic Hall. All photos by Christopher Rolinson.

development provides a challenge, Krill says, to purifying a large enough quantity of a particular compound to determine its structure. "It's a fairly painstaking process; it takes time to go through all the steps to produce the purified substance." Krill and her students have been working to increase production by a thousand-fold.

Students have been involved in different aspects of Krill's research since shortly after she arrived at Point Park in 2004: from graduate students who have analyzed results and improved methodology to work-study students and interns who have cared for the fish, planted seeds and taken measurements.

"I wanted a project that students could contribute to," comments Krill, and she is accomplishing that. Two students joined her in presenting research at a poster session at the American Association for Cancer Research's conference in Washington, D.C., in late 2008. Then-students Keli Caldwell (A&S 2007) and Shirley Charlton (A&S 2007) worked

with Krill to present "A Screening Method for Identifying Potential Angiogenesis Inhibitors." In simplified terms, Krill and the students introduced a quick, inexpensive means for screening compounds to determine if they have anti-angiogenic properties, or properties to hinder the development of blood vessels.

Krill has been involved in various aspects of cancer research throughout her career as a developmental biologist. Is there any end in sight for her research? "Too many questions, too little time," she says. "Every single thing you find out leads to 10 more different questions." And each year, new students join in the quest for answers.



# Educating Ethical Leaders

**School of Business partners with the H.J. Heinz Co. to advance ethical leadership studies at Point Park**

By Cristina Rouvalis

**I**t doesn't take an M.B.A. to figure out that the frauds perpetrated by Bernie Madoff and Enron executives were immoral and illegal.

But how do you avoid those spectacular scandals by teaching students from the start that businesses can be both profitable and ethical? Business students at Point Park University are learning precisely that.

The innovative program, a partnership with the H. J. Heinz Co. teaches students how to become ethical leaders and to manage in a way to safeguard against ethical lapses.

"Doing the right thing is actually the smart thing. If you only focus on money and the bottom line, the organization is not sustainable," said Associate Professor James Michael Haley, Ph.D., who holds the H. J. Heinz Endowed Chair in Business Management at Point Park. "We want our students to have values and not be short-term profit maximizers."

Many business schools created ethics programs in the wake of the 2001 Enron scandal, amid complaints that students were being taught to win at all costs. But Haley said some of those ethics courses have since been dropped or focus narrowly on legal and compliance issues.

"What makes us different is that our programs are practitioner-based," said Angela Isaac, Ph.D., dean of Point Park's School of Business. "We attract mid-level managers or people who aspire to be mid-level managers. Our training builds on the fundamental belief that ethical leadership is good business leadership for the sustainable organization. Most of our students are already in the business world. They are able to apply what they learn in the classroom as soon as they walk out the door."

Both undergraduate and graduate business students watch a video created by the business school and write an

essay regarding ethical leadership. Guest speakers from the Pittsburgh business community engage students in lively discussion of the challenges and benefits of building a business culture with strong values.

John Kraus, vice president of corporate governance, compliance and ethics at Heinz, visits some Point Park classes, explaining to students how he travels around the world for the food company to offer ethical training for salaried employees. He also encourages employees to report ethical violations through an anonymous hotline.

“You can never convince the young Bernie Madoff to change his spots. Maybe what you can do is to educate people in that we all have a vested interest in being ethical. There is no shame in speaking up.”

Kraus said there is a growing body of evidence that shows that top-performing companies have fewer ethical violations.

Haley even has his M.B.A. students in his Organizational Behavior class read two chapters of *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli, the power-hungry leader. “We are not trying to be naive and say there are no bad actors,” he said. “But we are trying to teach students how to protect themselves against people like that.”

Students also read recent headlines — Enron, WorldCom, and Tyco — to find modern examples of companies that cut corners, only to pay the price in the long run.

“It’s essential that business schools teach ethical leadership,” said Justin Lokay, a recent M.B.A. graduate. “Look at companies like Enron. It’s a company whose stock went through the roof. The company’s underlying unethical leadership made it drop even faster.”

Students don’t learn only about companies that put profits over ethics.

**“Doing the right thing is actually the smart thing. If you only focus on money and the bottom line, the organization is not sustainable,” said Associate Professor James Michael Haley, Ph.D., who holds the H. J. Heinz Endowed Chair in Business Management at Point Park. “We want our students to have values and not be short-term profit maximizers.”**

Haley also teaches case studies of successful ethical companies, including Heinz and Southwest Airlines. “Southwest is committed to safe, low-cost travel and courteous service,” Haley said. “They are united as a team to provide it on a regular basis. They are less likely to lose your luggage.”

Students are encouraged to look inward and examine their own values in the workplace. Often, ethical dilemmas come down to the little things.

**“If** something is legal, is it ethical?” is the question Assistant Professor Michele L. Langbein, Ph.D., poses to the undergraduates in the Accelerated Business (Saturday Fast) program she heads.

She presents a case study of an employer sending you out of town to a conference, offering to pay \$42 per diem for meals, but not reimbursing for parking. The conference hosts give you free meals

the first day of the conference, but you are forced to pay \$50 for parking. When you fill out your expense report, you ponder claiming the \$42 for meals to compensate for the parking.

But is that ethical?

That question often leads to lively classroom discussions. While some students can justify it, Langbein asks what happens if a superior discovers your creative expense report down the road.

“All these little white lies go to your integrity. Once you ruin your reputation, it takes a long time to build up your integrity. Is your integrity worth \$50?”

The course changed the life of Nicole Givner, 38, who just graduated from the Saturday Fast program and who is going on to pursue an M.B.A. at Point Park in the fall.

Givner, who works in the health care industry, said she would never do personal business during work time or spend the first five minutes of her shift getting coffee.

“You just want to be ethical at all times,” she said. “It is so important.”

Giver, an aspiring corporate executive, left the class with one clear message: “It’s so important to have an ethical leader at a corporation. Just because someone is a leader doesn’t mean they are ethical.”

Opposite: Associate Professor James Michael Haley (left) and John Kraus, vice president of corporate governance, compliance and ethics at H.J. Heinz Co. collaborate at Heinz headquarters in PPG Place, Downtown Pittsburgh. Photo by Ric Evans.

# Back to the Future

By Mark Sullivan

## Criminal Justice professor brings history of U.S. intelligence to life



Assistant Professor Michael Botta joins George Washington at the Senator John Heinz History Center last May at a celebration of the opening of the Fort Pitt Museum. Photos by Martha Rial.

Michael Botta, assistant professor of criminal justice and intelligence studies, doesn't have a problem pretending he's someone else. When you've worked for three decades as a special agent, going "undercover" comes naturally.

Last summer, he offered to give a lecture at the Penn's Colony festival in Saxonburg, Pa., on spies in the Revolutionary War. When the festival staff offered him a period costume, he said, "Sure." Since then he's received more requests to give his spy talk, including a recent lecture at the Heinz History Center, part of a celebration of the opening of the Fort Pitt Museum.

"With the work I do, you either teach, or you practice," Botta said.

Botta's interest in the Revolutionary War period is a natural outgrowth of his work as a special agent and as a teacher.

"With the advent of the Freedom of Information Act in 1994, a lot of stuff became known about espionage techniques — even dating back to the Revolution," Botta said.

And what about Nathan Hale, the man considered to be the first American spy? Before being executed by the British at the age of 21, he allegedly said, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."

"He wasn't the only spy, and he wasn't a very good one. He should have stayed a school teacher," Botta said with a laugh.

Botta retired from counterterrorism work in 2004 and joined the Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence studies at Point Park. Since then, the intelligence studies program has grown from four to 70 students. In the future, the University plans to offer internships with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) where students will get security clearances and perform actual intelligence work.

"Luckily, I was able to team up with Greg Rogers to design Point Park's intelligence program," Botta said. Rogers and Botta were partners when both worked for the U.S.





Customs Service. Rogers is now chair of the criminal justice and intelligence studies department.

“Point Park is unique in that we teach trade craft. Most schools teach intelligence analytical work. We teach what it’s about, the politics involved, dead drops, secret codes and surveillance,” Botta said.

In addition to working for the U.S. Customs Service, Botta worked for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“Working for the DEA gives you the same experience as an intelligence agent operative because you’re working with people who don’t know who you are and you’re trying to gain information,” Botta said.

Botta uses real-world scenarios in class as much as possible to teach students how to think.

“I tell them to watch all the news media. We call that open-source intelligence. You’ll pick up the diversity of information. You’d be surprised how many different versions you can get of a car accident,” Botta said.

“At the beginning of every semester, I draw a little box on the blackboard and I put a “u” inside it. I tell my students, ‘this is you guys. I’m out here. I think outside the box. By the time you leave me, you’ll be thinking outside the box also.’”

# Lewis and Gopaul elected to Board of Trustees



## Anne Lewis

▶ For more than two decades, Anne Lewis has been a driving force in Pittsburgh's nonprofit and civic community, leading major development efforts for the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Fox Chapel Country Day School and Shady Side Academy. Lewis was elected to the board of directors of the Children's Museum in 1991, serving as board vice president for three years and as president from 1997 to 2004. Under her leadership, the museum added a Mister Rogers' Neighborhood exhibit, renovated its existing facilities and hired a new executive director.

In 2001, Lewis led the museum in the largest development initiative of its history: a \$31 million capital campaign to underwrite the repurposing of two

major Pittsburgh landmarks – the Museum's former home in the Old Post Office Building and the adjacent Buhl Science Center – in an award-winning design featuring eight new exhibit areas. In 2004, Lewis was elected the organization's first director emeritus. Her contributions were also honored through the naming of the Anne Lewis Board Room and the Anne Lewis Book Fund.

At Fox Chapel Country Day School, Lewis served on the board from 1994–2000 (with four years as chair). Under her leadership, the school celebrated its 50th anniversary, initiated its first strategic plan and undertook a successful \$1.3 million capital campaign. The school also added a major new wing and completed a successful search for a new head. In recognition of her exceptional leadership, Lewis was voted the school's first and only trustee emerita.

Lewis joined the Shady Side Academy board in 2001 and was elected chair of its buildings and grounds committee the following year with responsibility for facility development, maintenance and security on the school's three campuses. She led construction of the \$12.5 million Hillman Performing Arts Center, the \$7.3 million renovation of the Rowe Hall Complex, and a new Pre-K building on the Junior School campus. She was elected trustee emerita in recognition of her achievements.

Lewis also serves on the boards of UPMC, the United Way of Allegheny County, the Children's Institute, Child Watch of Pittsburgh, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Family Communications Inc., a nonprofit company that carries on the work of the late Fred Rogers. She is a member of the advisory councils of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University.

Prior to her involvement in the nonprofit sector, Lewis worked as divisional vice president, events and publicity (1980–1986) for the nine Gimbels department stores in the Pittsburgh area. She serves today as the board chair of Oxford Development Co. Lewis holds a master's degree in public management from Carnegie Mellon.

## In May 2010, Point Park welcomed two new board members

Point Park alumnus Kishore K. Gopaul is the vice chairman of CNG Participations & Gestion SA – Switzerland, and vice chairman and managing partner of Courvoisier & Associés SA (Independent Asset Management Group) – Switzerland. He is also chairman of MerchantBridge (Switzerland) SA – Switzerland.

Gopaul holds directorships at HYSQIA Cosmetics Sàrl and Centre Suisse de Prevention du Vieillessement SA, both in Switzerland, and Attwoods Residential Care Home Ltd. in the United Kingdom. He is a member of the Swiss Association of Asset Managers and the Swiss Group of Independent Financial Advisors.

From 1990-91, Gopaul served as senior adviser to the chairman of United Group, where he was involved in restructuring and eventual orderly liquidation of that group. Prior to that, he held a variety of positions at Citibank/Citicorp.

Gopaul joined Citibank/Citicorp in 1981 as credit and marketing head on Port-Louis, Mauritius. He became branch manager in Port Gentil, Gabon, where he served as head of multinational relationships, and then credit/marketing head and assistant vice president in Libreville, Gabon. From 1985-1988 he was general manager and vice president in Libreville, Gabon. He also served as Citicorp representative and co-chair of the steering committee at the London Club, where he managed Republic of Gabon debt rescheduling.

Gopaul later became managing director and vice president for Citibank in Morocco. He served as Citicorp representative and co-chair of the Steering Committee at the London Club, where he managed Moroccan debt rescheduling.

From 1988-1990, he was regional head for the Maghreb countries, responsible for Citibank activities in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Prior to his work at Citibank/Citicorp, Gopaul held various positions at Rogers Group in Mauritius and the United Kingdom. He was a member of the executive committee responsible for investment decisions and management of group assets in the export processing zone. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he held executive positions for Latanier Group/L.G. Adams in London and Latanier Knitwear in Port-Louis, Mauritius.

At Point Park, Gopaul earned a bachelor's degree in politics and economics (magna cum laude) in 1974 and bachelor's degree in operations management (magna cum laude) in 1975. He served as a lecturer in finance and marketing management at Point Park in 1977 and as a lecturer in business principles and marketing management in 1977-78 at the Mauritius Institute of Education, Mauritius.



**Kishore K. Gopaul**

Gopaul received his M.B.A. in 1977 from Columbia University, where he specialized in banking and international finance. In 2003, Point Park recognized his outstanding achievements in business and finance by awarding him an honorary doctorate of law.



# Fast Company

Ed Haberle runs national sales for Nike

by Cristina Rouvalis

If you ran into Ed Haberle (BUS 1979) at Pittsburgh International Airport, you might guess he is a successful executive on the go.

Which he definitely is.

But don't let the power suit and the leather dress shoes fool you.

The former star first baseman for the Point Park University Pioneers is also living out a sports fanatic's dream.

Haberle, Nike's U.S. commercial director of sporting goods, has golfed with John Elway, chatted with Michael Jordan and met Wayne Gretzky. Entertaining clients has enabled him to see eight Super Bowls, the NCAA Final Four and NBA All-Star games.

"It's been a great ride," Haberle says. "It's all about sports enabling people to lead a better life."

Most days, Haberle laces up one of his 50 pairs of high-performance sneakers and puts on a polo shirt before heading to work in the Nolan Ryan Building in Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon. The dress code here is Swoosh-powered casual. Time permitting, he even breaks a sweat inside the Bo Jackson Gym on Nike's sprawling campus.

Every month, he flies to Pittsburgh to work at the Nike office in Robinson so he can see clients at Dick's Sporting Goods. In fact, Dick's is such an important client that Haberle lobbied the company, which was looking to move from its Binghamton, N.Y., base, to relocate its headquarters to Pittsburgh in 1994. When he shows Dick's clients the latest sports apparel,

Haberle dons formal business attire. Haberle has the confident stride of an athlete. His imposing 6-foot-3-inch build seems to fill a room. But he has the natural salesman's gift of putting people at ease.

The son of a steelworker, he grew up in Monroeville, playing baseball. Once at Point Park, "Big E," as his roommate called him, distinguished himself as a power-hitting lefty. "He had the tools to play professional baseball – that opinion was backed by scouts," says his classmate Mike Fetchko (COM 1978), who did play-by-play for the college radio station. Any pro hopes were dashed when Haberle injured his knee as a sophomore. Even so, Haberle led the underdog Pioneers to two College World Series championships in St. Joseph, Mo., in 1978 and 1979, placing fifth and third. The trip out in 1978 was his first plane ride.

Haberle, who was inducted into the University's athletic hall of fame, says Point Park taught him the fundamentals of business. His first job after graduation didn't fit him like a well-worn baseball glove — selling hair care products for Cosmair L'Oreal.

In 1981, Jeff Cohen, his college baseball teammate, tipped him off to a sales job at Nike's Pittsburgh office. By 1990, he became a manager and by 1996, he had advanced so far he moved to Oregon.

But his Northwest office is still awash in Steelers, Pirates, Pens and Point Park memorabilia. "It is like Pittsburgh west coast," says Fetchko, president of Integrated Strategic Marketing in Pittsburgh.

Haberle loves talking athletic shoes. His personal favorites are a pair of 1982 Air Force One high tops, in pristine condition in their box, and a copy of the Air Jordan Limited Edition the superstar wore in the Olympics. "To me, they're priceless." He runs the coolness factor of products past his two sons, Evan, 14, a baseball star, and Hayden, 18, a talented fencer.

Haberle gave Point Park alumni a taste of sneaker culture at a University event held on the Oregon campus of Nike, a \$20 billion global power. Point Park President Paul Hennigan was there. So was Fetchko, who says, "Ed took his passion for baseball and applied it to a different major league — Nike."



Ed Haberle at the Nike offices in Robinson Township, Pa. Photos by Martha Rial.

# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS ▶



Dear fellow alumni,

Point Park turns 50 this year, and we're ready to celebrate! On September 24-26, we'll be hosting an Anniversary Weekend that will provide plenty of opportunities to reunite with friends, classmates and former teachers. Don't miss this chance to see what's changed on campus (a lot!), participate in student group reunions, have fun at our family-focused street festival, and much more. For details, see page 30 and visit [www.pointpark.edu/50](http://www.pointpark.edu/50) to register online. Stay tuned to our Facebook page (Point Park University Alumni) for regular updates.

We're also proud to report the ongoing success of our new Pioneer Alumni Recruitment Team (PART) program, in which alumni help

prospective students make a connection with Point Park. We now have 38 PART volunteers from throughout Pennsylvania. Our current volunteers have contacted 710 academically accepted students (25 percent of pool) and 301 net-deposited students (35 percent of pool). Of those 301 students contacted by our alumni volunteers, 206 are enrolled (registered for classes) for the fall 2010 semester. To play your PART, call us at 412-392-4204. And thanks to all of our alumni for building pride in Point Park!

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

## Refer a Student

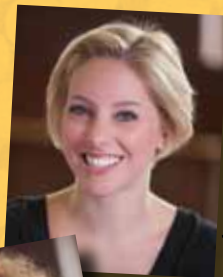
Visit [www.pointpark.edu/Alumni/PART/referastudent](http://www.pointpark.edu/Alumni/PART/referastudent)

### Once Upon a Time

Kiki Lucas (COPA 1999) and Marlana Walsh-Doyle (COPA '01) graduated from Point Park University with degrees in dance.

Kiki and Marlana are employed by the Houston Metropolitan Professional Dance Company.

Kiki and Marlana told their friend, Jasmine Hearn, about their great experience at Point Park.



### Today

Jasmine is a senior at Point Park, majoring in dance and employed by the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble.



### Moral of the Story

Share your Point Park experience and refer a prospective student. You'll be amazed at the impact it can have.

# Alumni Association Honors Outstanding Alumni and Students

The Point Park University Alumni Association honored four accomplished former students at the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet on March 27:

## Distinguished Alumni Professional Achievement Award

### Barbara VanKirk

Computer Science, 1983

Barbara VanKirk is the president and owner of IQ Inc., a company that provides expert consulting, staffing, project management and software development services to clients with information technology needs. In the past 15 years Van Kirk's company has grown to employ 45 people and generate \$6 million in gross annual revenue. She is also a dedicated advocate and mentor for women looking to re-enter the workplace.

## Distinguished Alumni Service Award

### Roy E. Cox, D.Ed., EMT-P

Public Administration, 1991

Roy E. Cox is the district chief of the City of Pittsburgh's Bureau of EMS in the Department of Public Safety, and the leader of the Pittsburgh CISM team, which helps mitigate the stressful effects of tragic events. He has received numerous awards from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Emergency Medical Services Institute for his dedication to public safety.

## GOLD Award (Graduate of the Last Decade)

### James K. Shearer

Public Administration, 1999

James K. Shearer is a special agent for the FBI, assigned to the Detroit Field Division's Grand Rapids Resident Agency. He is responsible for investigating domestic terrorism. Shearer's training and expertise led to the capture of the leader of the Earth Liberation Front organization who committed arson at Michigan State University in 1999. Before joining the FBI, he served as a police officer in Wilmington, N.C., working with the department's narcotics team.

## Charles Quillin Award (Friend of Point Park)

### Helen Fallon

Journalism and Mass Communication, 1975

Helen Fallon is a faculty member and director of the Honors Program at Point Park. Over the past two decades she has held various positions including chair of the journalism and communication department and acting dean of the new School of Communication. Fallon serves on the Myron Cope Scholarship Committee and has served on the Presidential Scholarship interview team, School of Arts and Sciences leadership team, the Retention Committee and the Faculty Assembly Committee.



## Graduating Seniors Honored

### Recognized for Academic Excellence, Community Service and Character

The Alumni Association honored four members of the Class of 2010 as Outstanding Graduating Seniors at an awards luncheon on April 6.

From left are: **Jamie Inferrera**, School of Communication; Alumni Association President John Taormina; **Angela Dice**, Conservatory of Performing Arts; **Joseph Adams**, School of Business; **Michelle Guaragno**, School of Arts and Sciences; and Point Park President Paul Hennigan.



It's been 50 years since Point Park was founded in 1960, and we want you to help us celebrate! Join us for the University's 50th Anniversary celebration. Whether you're an alumnus of Point Park Junior College, Point Park College or Point Park University, this celebration is meant for you, your family and your classmates.

# POINT PARK UNIVERSITY 50th Anniversary Celebration

**September 24 - 26, 2010**

[www.pointpark.edu/50](http://www.pointpark.edu/50)

**“Whether you’re a child of the 1960s or a recent grad, please join us for Point Park’s 50th Anniversary celebration. Not only will you enjoy reliving those fun-filled college years with friends and faculty, you’ll gain a whole new pride in Point Park.”**

*Mary Josefoski*  
COM 1971 and 1991  
Co-chair, (with Susan Orr, COM 1993)  
50th Anniversary Alumni Committee

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### ***School Reunions Hosted by the Deans***

Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while socializing with old friends, current and retired faculty and staff. Visit the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Communication and Conservatory of Performing Arts. 6 - 8 p.m. See complete schedule for locations (\$20 per person, reservations required).

### ***Twilight Carriage Rides***

See the sparkling lights of Downtown Pittsburgh! Free carriage tours depart Alumni Park, between 8 - 10 p.m.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

### ***Continental Breakfast***

Join fellow alums for a continental breakfast in Alumni Park, 9 - 10:30 a.m.

### ***Campus & City Tours***

Join student tour guides for a memorable tour of campus and/or Downtown Pittsburgh. Take a walking tour to see what's changed on campus (a lot!) and what has stayed the same. Or hop a Molly's Trolley to see Downtown developments such as the new Market Square. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. One-hour tours depart Alumni Park.



### **School Showcases**

Experience the excitement and learn about new endeavors at each school! Visit the Conservatory of Performing Arts (10 - 10:50 a.m.); School of Arts and Sciences (11 - 11:50 a.m.); School of Business (12 - 12:50 p.m.); School of Communication (2 - 2:50 p.m.) and the Conservatory of Performing Arts. See final schedule for locations.

### **Retro WPPJ DJ Experience**

Calling all former WPPJ radio DJs—this is your chance to jump into the booth again! 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lawrence Hall, 2nd Floor. (Register online for preferred time.)

### **Conversations with Faculty**

Talk with your favorite faculty members about topics from yesterday, today and tomorrow. 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. See final schedule for participating faculty, times and locations.

### **Third Avenue Street Festival\***

Food, fun and live entertainment! The festival will feature student club and game booths, activities for children and families, a beer garden (for ages 21 and up), and a stage with dance performances, WPPJ live broadcast and live bands. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*\*Attendees must have special wristbands to enter the festival.*

### **Student Group Reunions**

Rekindle the relationships and affiliations that made your Point Park experience memorable! Group reunions include: Black Student Union, Greek Life, Paris Study Abroad, Residence Life Staff, Student Media and Student Athletes. 4 - 6 p.m., Sheraton Station Square. See complete schedule for room locations. (\$15 per person, reservations required).

### **50th Anniversary Dinner**

This premier event, hosted by President Paul Hennigan, will bring the entire University community together to celebrate 50 years of success. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Sheraton Station Square. (\$50 per person, reservations required).

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

#### **Campus Brunch**

Enjoy bakery treats, fresh fruit, made-to-order omelets and more — alongside resident Point Park students! 9 - 11 a.m., Lawrence Hall Dining Facility.

#### **Men's Baseball & Women's Softball Reunion Games**

Get back in the swing of Point Park sports! 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. See final schedule for locations.

### **Post-Game Reception**

Enjoy light refreshments as your Point Park anniversary weekend comes to a close. 1 - 3 p.m. See final schedule for location. (\$15 per person for the reception, reservations required).

### **REGISTER TODAY!**

You can register online at [www.point-park.edu/50](http://www.point-park.edu/50) or call the Alumni Office at 412-392-4750 to request a reservation form. Many events are complimentary and some have costs (as indicated). You can purchase a discounted pass to attend all events (\$75 per person or \$65 if purchased by August 13). Please register by Sept. 20, even if you plan to attend only complimentary events. We'll have a check-in/information desk in the Lawrence Hall lobby throughout the weekend.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Visit [www.poinpark.edu/50](http://www.poinpark.edu/50) to see a list of participating hotels. Make your reservations by Friday, August 27, and mention "Point Park University 50th Anniversary" to receive a discounted rate (while rooms last).



# We thank the individuals and companies who made Starmakers 2010 a success!



## PLATINUM PRESENTERS \$25,000

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*Starmakers*  
POINT PARK UNIVERSITY  
2010

# CLASS NOTES▶

## ▶ 1960s

**Robert Fryer** (COM 1969), managing editor of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, received the President's Award at the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania's 46th annual Golden Quill Awards, held May 3 at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. The award honored Fryer for his lifetime service to journalism. Fryer has been managing editor of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review since 1998. He manages a team of more than 300 journalists on seven metro and suburban editions with a circulation of more than 177,000 daily and more than 210,000 Sunday, as well as 21 suburban weeklies. Before joining the Trib, Fryer had more than 30 years of news reporting and editing experience, mainly at the Valley News Dispatch, but also at the North Hills News Record and USA Today. Fryer was news editor, city editor and managing editor at the VND. He oversees the Trib's award-winning investigative desk.

## ▶ 1970s

The Rev. **Clifton B. Chandler** (A&S 1978) became the new pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Mansfield, Ohio, last November, after serving as interim pastor since 2008. A native of Pittsburgh (and lifelong Steelers fan), Chandler earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from Point Park College in 1978 and did postgraduate work at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. He worked in the engineering field for more than three decades, starting at U.S. Steel, then working for PPG as a project engineer, General Motors as senior manufacturing engineer and finally as facility manager/plant engineer for Newman Technology. He is the owner of a U.S. patent, co-author of a children's science book done in conjunction with Ohio State University, and a former president of Friends for Missions (Haiti), Pittsburgh chapter. Chandler was raised

## One Wild Proposal

**Jesse Bender** (COPA 2007) proposed to **Melissa Dlouhy** (A&S 2007) last New Year's Eve at the Pittsburgh Zoo. To celebrate, the zookeeper invited the happy couple into the elephant exhibit to meet the residents. Bender and Dlouhy, who graduated from Point Park in 2007, are each pursuing a master's degree in occupational therapy. They plan to wed in September, 2010.



as a member of the historic Metropolitan Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, where he eventually became deeply involved in the church, including the usher board, Sunday school, youth choir and male chorus. He became a deacon in 1982, accepted the call to preach the gospel and was ordained in 1984.



**Sue Sefscik** (COM 1975) is the founder of Rockin' Horse Retirement in Dunnellon, Fla., a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to providing a retirement home for well-loved horses. Sefscik writes, "Because of the poor economy, there have been hundreds of horses turning up as rescue. Many people who were formerly able to afford a horse now cannot, nor can these individuals sell their horses. So last October, I bought a couple acres in central Florida and started a horse retirement farm. I currently have two rescued senior mares. To receive our occasional newslet-

ter, please email me at [rockinhorseiretirement@dishmail.net](mailto:rockinhorseiretirement@dishmail.net). Or visit us on the Web at: <http://sites.google.com/a/dishmail.net/rockinhorseiretirement/home>. All are invited to visit! We love carrots and apples."

## ▶ 1980s

**James Caskowski** (COM 1980), an artist and wood turner, plans to retire after serving as facility director of the Pack Place Education, Arts & Science Center in Asheville, N.C. Caskowski's works are sold through the Asheville Art Museum gift store, the North Carolina Arboretum and area galleries. He writes, "I now plan to concentrate my efforts advancing my art and enjoying the mountains of North Carolina with my wife, Carol." For more information about Jim's work, visit: <http://www.handmadeinamerica.org/artists/jim-caskowski>.



**Denise Verrico** (COPA 1983) writes that "L&L Dreamspell has recently published my vampire novel, *Cara Mia, Book One of the Immortyl Revolution*, the first of a series. *Book Two, Twilight of the Gods* is due out this fall."

Verrico earned her degree in theater arts at Point Park in 1983. More information about

## CLASS NOTES

Denise and her books is available at: [www.deniseverricowriter.webs.com](http://www.deniseverricowriter.webs.com). "I can also be found on Facebook at my fan page, Immortyl Revolution."

**Kim Love** (A&S 1989) has been promoted to chief program officer for SharpVisions, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization that provides customized support for people with challenging disabilities. SharpVisions serves more than 500 children and adults and employs more than 350 people throughout Pennsylvania. Love, who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Point Park in 1989 and a master's degree in psychology at Duquesne University in 1991, began her tenure with SharpVisions in 1998 as a behavior specialist. Responsible for the provision of high quality services for all individuals supported by SharpVisions, she also develops strategies and structures to support the organization's continued growth while maintaining institutional stability. For more information visit [www.sharpvisions.org](http://www.sharpvisions.org).

**Renata (Mastrofrancesco) Shaw** (COM 1989) is proud to announce that she and her husband, Mark, are the parents of a new son, Ryan Robert, born Nov. 19, 2009.

**Olusegun Awosanya** (COPA 1985) is a writer, director and production consultant with Muiyiwa Productions in Surulere, Lagos, in Nigeria. Awosanya, who earned a bachelor's degree in cinema in 1985, is sad to report that he lost his 80-year-old mother last March. He plans to return to Point Park for the University's 50th Anniversary events, Sept. 24-26.



Sabrina D'Agosta and children.

### ► 1990s

**Sabrina (Henderson) D'Agosta** (COM 1998) had a daughter, Adriana Noelle D'Agosta, on Dec. 16, 2009. Sabrina is the deputy communications director for Denver mayor and Colorado gubernatorial candidate John Hickenlooper. She lives with her husband, Brian, son, Sebastian, and new baby in northwest Denver.



**Kathy Gruver** (COPA 1992) has released her first natural health book, *The Alternative Medicine Cabinet*. This is a collection of wellness information to

educate about options in alternative medicine. The book covers topics ranging from sleep, depression and healthy pregnancy to cancer treatments, corporate health and nutrition. Kathy currently lives in Santa Barbara, Calif., with her husband, Michael. To learn more, visit [www.healingcirclemassage.com/books](http://www.healingcirclemassage.com/books). Follow Gruver on Twitter for regular health tips: [www.twitter.com/klgruver](http://www.twitter.com/klgruver).

### ► 2000s

**Sean Ewing** (COPA 2008) is appearing on Broadway in *West Side Story* at the Palace Theatre. Performing the role of Pepe, Ewing is also the understudy for Bernardo.

**Patrick A. Shea** (A&S 2004) received a master's of social work degree (M.S.W.) from Youngstown State University in May 2010. Shea, who earned a master's degree in criminal justice administration at Point Park in 2004, recently opened a state-licensed foster care agency in Punxsutawney, Pa.

**Todd Piwowarski** (BUS 2006) has accepted a position as an employment program representative with the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) in San Diego. He earned his master's degree in international business at Point Park in 2006.

**Stephanie Rex** (COM 2007) has been hired as a project associate at Judith Kelly + Associates. Rex assists the firm's principal in creation and development of media materials and the building and maintaining of company relationships with clients. She also assists in planning events and coordination of client meetings. Rex spent the previous two and a half years working as a journalist for the Butler Eagle newspaper in Butler, Pa. She previously worked for the Valley News Dispatch in Tarentum, Pa. and contributed to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette East section. As a journalism and mass communication student at Point Park, Rex served as editor-in-chief of *The Globe*, the student newspaper. She has also served as manager of special projects at the Women and Girls Foundation.

**Kate Krivanek** (COM 2005) joined the WJAC-TV News team (in Johnstown, Pa.) as an anchor and reporter in January 2010. A Pittsburgh native, Krivanek got her start

## DROP US A NOTE!

Visit [www.pointpark.edu/classnote](http://www.pointpark.edu/classnote) to share your news.



Chris Mackenthun taught a class at Eagle Performing Arts in Boise, Idaho, last April while on a break from his performance in Troika's touring production of the Broadway musical *Cats*. Photo by Darin Oswald/Idaho Statesman.

interning at Pittsburgh's WPXI-TV while pursuing her degree in broadcast journalism at Point Park. After graduation, she hit the highway for West Virginia, where she secured her first TV news job at WVNS-TV. Krivanek says she enjoys getting involved in the community, hitting the gym, cooking and spending time with her family.

**David Marlowe Grimes** (A&S 2008, 2010) has been promoted to senior sergeant of police for the Borough of Rankin, Pa. Grimes earned a degree in criminal justice administration in 2010.

**Elizabeth Kleinknecht** (COPA 2007) has been promoted to head of the Theatre Design/Tech Department at The Manatee School for the Arts (a charter arts middle and high school) in Sarasota, Fla.

**Chris Mackenthun** (COPA 2005) returned to his hometown of Boise, Idaho, last April to dance in Troika's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*, the longest-running tour of the longest-running Broadway musical in history. Mackenthun performed the role of Magical Mr. Mistoffelees, the black and white cat featured in a challenging dance solo in the second act. His mom and dad, who have both retired to the Mountain Home Air Force Base in Boise, were in the audience to see him perform at the city's Morrison Center. After graduat-

ing from Point Park with a degree in dance in 2005, Mackenthun danced with Ballet Idaho under Toni Pimble and with Jeff and Cathy Giese and Lisa Moon at Eagle Performing Arts Academy. According to an article in the Idaho-Statesman, "Though he initially sought a job in a ballet company, [Mackenthun] is happy he has landed in musical theater, especially a show such as *Cats* that blends technical dance and intense character work. 'I love ballet, and I love to watch it, but I know I would never be more than a corps member,' he said. 'Musical theater is where I can stretch myself, and who knows where I'll end up. It's a wild career path.'"

**Frank Hartle** (A&S 2009) has been appointed the assistant federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. An adjunct professor

at Point Park, he earned a master's degree in criminal justice administration in 2009. Hartle writes, "Thank you for the wonderful education experience."

**Tina Bandzuch** (COM 2009) was one of two finalists for the 2010 BizMark Fast Tracker of the Year Awards, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Business Marketing Association. Bandzuch, who began as an intern for Brunner more than three years ago, joined the company in 2009 as assistant account executive. Her clients include Phillips Respironics, LaRosa's Pizzeria, Huffy Bicycles and PPG.

**Jamie Inferrera** (COM 2010) has been hired as a staff member for Pennsylvania State Representative Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler). She was named the 2010 Outstanding Graduating Senior in the School of Communication.

### In Memoriam

**George Bashur** (COM 1975), a Point Park alumnus and award-winning public relations professional, died unexpectedly in Powell, Ohio, on March 22, 2010. A Pittsburgh native born in McKeesport in 1953, he is survived by his wife Mary (Spagnolo), and their three children: Daniel Bashur, Jaclyn Venne and Christopher Bashur (COPA 2008), who earned a degree in cinema and digital arts at Point Park. According to his obituary, "George remained an avid Pittsburgh sports enthusiast after relocating his family to Columbus in 1986 to work with Paul Werth and Associates, where he became accredited in public relations, winning Prism awards for various client campaigns. In 1996 he founded his own business "gbapr." He was a devoted family man, a talented writer, comedian, artist, creative chef and accomplished baker. He leaves this world behind always acknowledging that a man's true wealth is measured by his family and the love he created, and was certainly surrounded by. He will be sadly missed."

**Robert N. (Nelson) Romesburg Jr.** (COM 1971), best known to his many Point Park friends as Robbie, The Rocker or Rockin' Robbie, died in Mt. Laurel, N.J., on March 18, 2010, after a long battle with lung and brain cancer. He was 61. A Uniontown native, Romesburg studied journalism and mass communication at Point Park but spent nearly half of his professional life as stand-up comedian Robbie Roman, playing in venues as far apart as New York City, Washington, D.C., Miami, Fla., and Omaha, Neb. For the past decade he also worked as a market researcher for a firm in Mt. Holly, N.J. His friend Robert Everett reports that Romesburg "was an absolutely maniacal record collector. At the time of his death, he had in his possession what I would conservatively estimate to be more than 30,000 records. He was well-known and well-liked in the record-collecting world." Romesburg is survived by three children: Danielle (Romesburg) Pierce of Los Angeles, Sasha Romesburg of Pittsburgh, and Robert T. (R.T.) Romesburg of Uniontown.

# ATHLETICS ▶

## PIONEER SOFTBALL PROGRAM IS ON THE RISE

By Kevin Taylor

Something that has coincided with the growth of Point Park University over the last several years has been the growth and emergence of the Point Park softball program.

As the school has grown, so has the softball team, which has developed into a contender in the American Midwest Conference. And by all accounts, the Pioneers have every reason to believe that their program will continue to make strides in the future.

"There are so many great things happening at Point Park University right now," said fourth-year head coach Michelle Coultas (A&S 1999), who was an all-conference shortstop for the Pioneers from 1994-97. "And the softball program is growing right along with that."

Entering this school year, the Pioneers are coming off back-to-back winning seasons. Point Park was 22-14 in



2009 to register the first winning record in over a decade, and the Pioneers were 19-11 last year.

In each of the last two seasons, Point Park has missed out on the postseason by one game, but that can't discount the fact that the program is on the rise.

Although the Pioneers have lost four-year starters Christie Schroeder and Courtney Cain to graduation, there is still plenty of veteran leadership to go along with a couple of strong recruiting classes.

## ▶ SPORTS ROUNDUP

### ▶ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team had a winning season for the first time in 16 years after turning in a final record of 14-13 in 2009-10. The Pioneers were 10-10 in the AMC and missed the conference playoffs by one game. Under fourth-year coach Sam Kosanovich, the Pioneers had second-team All-AMC guards April Austin (14.7 ppg) and Ashley Henderson (13.1 ppg). Senior Brittney Wilson finished her career ranking eighth in school history in scoring with 1,191 career points.

### ▶ MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team had a record of 9-16 during the 2009-10 season, and the Pioneers had some standout performers. Freshman point guard T.J. Heatherington led the team in scoring (15.9 ppg) and assists (5.9 apg) and was named second team All-AMC. Gerald

Warrick, a 6-foot-7 senior transfer, averaged 14.9 points and 11.0 rebounds per game. Head coach Bob Rager completed his 21st year at the helm. He is just five wins shy of 300 for his career.

### ▶ MEN'S GOLF

For the first time since the early 1970s, Point Park fielded a men's golf team in 2009-10. Head coach Gabe Bubon's squad was led by Darin Kowalski, a senior transfer who took first place in three of the six tournaments he entered. Kowalski had a scoring average of 74.4. Freshman Austin Elder had six top-10 finishes in nine events on the year. As a team, Point Park placed third at Grove City and Thiel. The Pioneers' home course is Quicksilver Golf Club in Midway, Pa.

### ▶ WOMEN'S GOLF

Competing for the first time in school

history, the Point Park women's golf team participated in three events during the 2009-10 season. The Pioneers and head coach Gabe Bubon had five members on their team led by freshman Rowan Lewis, who was Point Park's top finisher in each event.

### ▶ BASEBALL

In its first season under head coach Loren Torres, the baseball team had several players turn in career years. Senior Dan Campbell was named Team MVP with a batting average of .363, and junior Bryce Pfeuffer won the Team Batting Champion award with a team-best .375 average. Senior Joe Cox was named Team Pitcher of the Year with a 3.40 ERA. The Pioneers were 13-26 under Torres, a native of Miami, Fla., who has won 120 games in six years as a collegiate head coach.



Opposite: Michelle Coultas (A&S 1999) is head coach of the Pioneers softball team. Left: Players share team spirit at home plate. Photos by Kevin Taylor. Below top: Junior shortstop Lindsey Pesanka, a three-year starter for the Pioneers. Bottom photo: Freshman Kelsey Robertson was named the AMC Softball Pitcher of the Year last season. Photos by Murphy Moschetta.

“What we are building at Point Park is a team made up of players who love softball, who are committed to the game and who want to play on a competitive collegiate program while at the same time going to a great school,” said Coultas.

**“There are so many great things happening at Point Park University right now,” said fourth-year head coach Michelle Coultas (A&S 1999), who was an all-conference shortstop for the Pioneers from 1994-97. “And the softball program is growing right along with that.”**

This coming season, the Pioneers will look for senior leadership from shortstop Lindsey Pesanka, pitcher Kristen Zelenka and outfielder Nicole Kerestine. Point Park also has a

great group of younger players such as Kelsey Robertson and Amanda Ardinger, who were named the AMC Pitcher of the Year and the AMC Freshman of the Year, respectively, as freshmen last season.

“We’ve been able to get some very talented players the last few years, and that has continued with this year’s recruiting class,” said Coultas. “That’s a credit to the school and our coaching staff, which includes my very-dedicated assistant Rob Ferrari.

“We’ve tasted some success and we’ve been really close the last couple of years,” said Coultas. “And now as our players get more experience and we build the program, we want to take that next step. I’m very confident that we can do that.”

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



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# 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration



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