

Dear alumni and friends,

Amid these challenging times, many people are faced with difficult decisions and uncertainty about the future as a result of the economy. While no one knows what the future may hold, we remain focused on implementing our strategic plan at Point Park University. Over the next year, our Office of Institutional Research will be conducting a study with the purpose of identifying the attributes of our successful students at Point Park and focusing our efforts on seeking out potential students who would also be a good fit for our University. Our goal is to help students thrive and to provide a positive educational experience despite the economic downturn.

Quality student experience is one of our guiding principles and to ensure students' needs are met, we recently launched a new initiative titled STARS or Striving to Achieve Remarkable Service. This initiative was developed by a committee comprised of staff from offices and departments throughout the University. As we strive for continuous improvement in all of our processes, our focus on service will distinguish us with new and prospective students and better position us to meet the challenges of our current economic environment.

Point Park is currently meeting our projections for enrollment and we are paying very close attention to our revenues and expenditures, as well as the financial aid needs of our students. We are prepared to work collaboratively with our students to help them identify internal and external financing options to finance their college educations.

During this time of introspection, our editorial board is seeking feedback on The Point and I encourage you to participate in our Reader Survey. We value your insight and support as we move forward in achieving our vision of becoming one of the most dynamic private, urban universities in America.

In this issue of The Point, we offer an interesting tale from a faculty member's past life with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and his experience tracking down a high-profile terrorist. Other stories share perspectives from our brilliant faculty and fresh insights from our students, as well as alumni news and success stories.

I believe the future holds continued progress and momentum, as we remain focused on our strategic plan and implementation of the Academic Village at Point Park University.

Warm regards,



Dr. Paul Hennigan
President



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Comments and suggestions are welcome!
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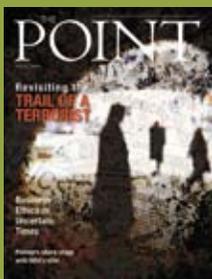
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Point Park University educates students in a diverse environment and prepares graduates to apply knowledge to achieve their goals, advance their professions and serve their communities.

Point Park University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, ancestry, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, or familial status, in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities, or with respect to employment or admission to the University's educational programs and activities.

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On the cover: Mike Finnegan, assistant professor in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies, is profiled in our story about fighting terrorism on page 14.

Photo by Karen Meyers

enjoyed the last
received and I was very pleased
O'Gara on the cover. I enjoyed his
back in 1992. I hear from
Kathleen Donnelly,

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for the great issues of The Point - excellent publication! I enjoy learning about all that is new at Point Park.

– Ellen (Harbold) Gamble (COM 1990)

I enjoyed the last edition of The Point I just received and I was very pleased to see Prof. Bob O'Gara on the cover. I enjoyed his course a great deal back in 1992. I hear from my other favorite professor, Kathleen Donnelly, fairly regularly. As you would expect, her blogs from the UK are very entertaining!

– Julian Asenjo (MA, COM 1993)

I have now read several issues of The Point, and I continue to be amazed by the professionalism, as well as the overall entertainment value provided in each issue. The photography is crisp and creative, and the text is detailed, yet concise and insightful.

In the Winter 2008-2009 issue, I was particularly pleased to find a small, but relevant section titled Class Notes. Within this section, several Point Park alumni were recognized for some of their professional and other life accomplishments and progressions after earning degrees at Point Park. Seeing some of these successes reminds one of the true meaning behind receiving a quality education from a progressive, forward-thinking institution of higher learning.

The Point and Point Park University continue to motivate current students and alumni to make the best of the education they have received, and to realize that dreams are advanced by the Point Park community every day.

– Jason Bloom, M.B.A. (BUS '05)



KEEPING UP THE REPUTATION



John Shepard, chair of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts theatre department, was recently named Performer of the Year by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for his

acclaimed role as Willy Loman in The REP's Sept. 2008 production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. The sold-out production was named as one of the top ten plays of the year. Also mentioned were the Conservatory Theatre Company's productions of *Can-Can* and *Thou Shalt Not* and The REP's world premiere production of *Eastburn Avenue*, written by Point Park alumnus **Marcus Stevens** (COPA '03) with music by **Doug Levine**.

SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

Robert J. Fowler, Ph.D., adjunct faculty member in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies, recently completed postdoctoral studies at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. His area of advanced studies pertained to cognitive science and brain-based learning.

Dane Claussen, Ph.D., professor and director of graduate programs in the School of Communication, presented a paper at the Seminar on Media Consumption and Youth held Oct. 27–28 at Shanghai International Studies

University's main campus in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. His paper, "Ideology Makes for Bad Social Science: The Case of U.S. Research on Youth and Mass Media Violence," started the conference which included more than 25 participants, eight from outside China. Claussen was one of only three participants from the United States. Claussen also attended the Second European Communication Conference held Nov. 25-28 in Barcelona, Spain. The conference's theme was "Communication Policies and Culture in Europe." Claussen was one of only four U.S. scholars who attended the conference. He represented the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication, for which he edits *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*, the world's oldest and largest scholarly journal devoted to journalism and mass communication. He was reappointed in December 2008 for a second three-year term as international editor of the journal.

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Anthony Moretti, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Communication, has been elected to the national board of the Broadcast Education Association. Moretti, whose two-year term begins in April, will represent the organization's District 8, which includes 17 divisions. In addition to attending two national board meetings each year, he will coordinate the selection of the annual convention program chair.

Jan Getz, broadcaster in residence in the School of Communication, was selected for two national conferences. In August 2008 she attended the International Radio and Television Society's Digital Summit at Disney/ABC studios in Los Angeles where she was one of 60 faculty from around the country who had the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of digital content, developments and distribution formats

being used in the company. In November 2008 she joined 19 other faculty for the prestigious Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' week-long faculty seminar, also in LA. The seminar explored prime time television, cable and Web programming with leading producers, writers, editors and executives.

Wendy L. Hardy has been named director of the Point Park University Children's School. She was previously director of the Early Learning Center in Mt. Lebanon, Pa. A specialist in the arts, Hardy has taught preschool through high school. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Central Michigan University and is finishing Walden University's doctoral program in education leadership.

STAY POSTED!

Representatives
from Point Park's
Office of Alumni
Relations are
coming to your
area soon!

If you would like to know more about
Point Park's upcoming visits, please email
John Pine at jpine@pointpark.edu.

Also, if you already live or work in Pittsburgh, be sure to join us for a
Green Bag Lunch or Breakfast in Point Park's Frontier Hall!

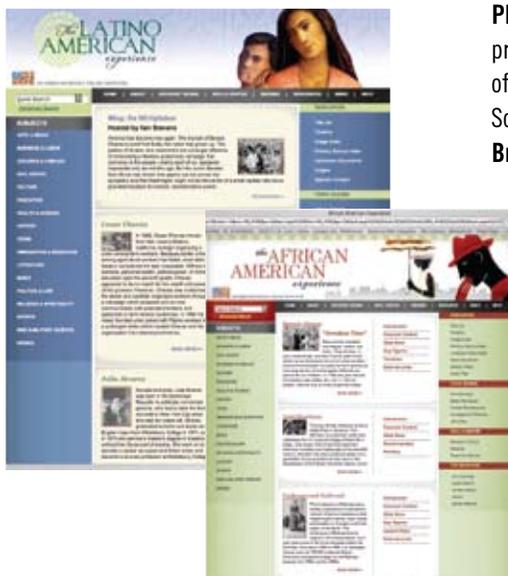
Learn about the latest developments with the Academic Village Initiative and reconnect with alumni,
faculty and staff. For more information, please email bcinpinski@pointpark.edu.





CULTURAL OFFERINGS ONLINE

Point Park's University Center offers access to digital resources by The American Mosaic, which documents the multiethnic experience of American Indians, Latino and African Americans. The resources can be accessed through the library's Web site at: pointpark.edu/library. The Latino American Experience is the first-ever database dedicated to the history and culture of Latinos, the largest, fastest growing minority group in the United States. The databases feature more than 650 titles of full-text content on African American, U.S. Latino, American Indian, and multicultural history, politics and culture as



well audio and music files, maps, photographs, timelines, speeches, court cases, advertisements, treaties, Spanish-language texts, captivity narratives, and over 3,500 slave narratives. The databases contain search and browse functions as well as links to vetted Web sites and blogs hosted by leading scholars and librarians in the field.

SEEING STARS

Developed by a committee comprised of staff from offices and departments throughout the University, STARS, or Striving to Achieve Remarkable Service, is a staff service initiative that supports Point Park University's guiding principle of Quality Student Experience. This staff-driven initiative was launched in January with focus on service to distinguish the University community with new and prospective students and to better position the University for challenges of the current economic environment.

Learning FROM LICHENS

Matthew Opdyke, Ph.D., and **Laura Frost, Ph.D.**, assistant professors in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology, and **Bryan Dolney**, a senior biological sciences major, received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for a lichen study that will include surveys of Frick Park and parks outside Allegheny County to assess any ecological impact on their populations caused by air quality or other urban influences. Dolney will be conducting the majority of the fieldwork and plans



to publish and present his study at national conferences.

STUDENT POSTER DISPLAYED AT THE ZOO

Students in the Department of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology designed and published a poster on display at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium in the Education Complex as part of their class work in biological evolution. The poster illustrates the evolutionary lineages in primates and saltwater fish. It is used as an educational tool for visitors to the zoo.

THANKS TO OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Thanks to support from area legislators, Point Park University has received grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the following projects:

\$5,000 toward completion of the Tap Studio in the Dance Studio Complex, supported by State Representative **Thomas C. Petrone**; \$10,000 toward the establishment of a National Security Training Center for Criminal Justice and Intelligence students, supported by State Representative **Paul Costa**; and \$10,000 toward the University's mentoring initiative, supported by State Representative **Jake Wheatley**.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP INITIATED

The Point Park Alumni Association launched an Alumni Association Scholarship during the University's Second Annual Alumni Holiday Party at the LeMont on Dec. 13. **Ellen Gamble** (COM 1990) was the keynote speaker and Taylor Chalker, junior theater arts major, entertained the guest with some holiday songs. Over 250 faculty, staff, students and alumni were in attendance.



From left: John Taormina and his wife, Carolyn, Ellen Gamble and her husband, Eric, at the Alumni Holiday Party held at The LeMont.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

Point Park's University Center is featured in the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation's *Whirlwind Walk Architecture and Urban Spaces in Downtown Pittsburgh*, the first fully-illustrated comprehensive walking tour guidebook to many of the principal buildings and public spaces in downtown Pittsburgh. The guidebook details the University Center's original design in the early 1900s and notes its Greek ionic

columns with scroll-like capitals. The guidebook was published in conjunction with Pittsburgh's 250th Anniversary.

INNOVATIVE ENTRY

Dan McVeagh, a senior information and technology management (accelerated program) major, invented a multi-touch computer table for the Pittsburgh Innovates competition sponsored by City Live. His invention, along with 76 other entries, was presented on the competition's Web site, where winners were selected by an open vote. Prizes of \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$1,000 were awarded at the New Hazlett Theatre on Pittsburgh's North Side on Nov. 24. To view McVeagh's entry visit pittsburghinnovates.com.

BREAKING RECORDS

When radio stations played records, it was bad news to break one. Not so today. Point

Park's WPPJ 670-AM broke a record by raising over \$3,000 in sponsorship for 67 consecutive hours of student broadcasting held October 28–31. The 28th annual Rock-A-Thon, under the leadership of general manager **Jaymes Progar**, senior broadcasting major, benefitted The Early Learning Center, a private, non-profit organization that provides comprehensive early intervention services to infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. The agency serves more than 1,600 children throughout Allegheny County. WPPJ has raised over \$21,000 for the Early Learning Center through Rock-A-Thons held during the past 27 years.



Tell us what you think.
Tell us what you *really* think.

In less than five minutes, you could help the editorial team of The Point know what you expect to find in your alumni magazine. We'd like to know your thoughts on The Point. Please participate in our online survey at <http://www.pointpark.edu/readersurvey>

Plus, survey participants may enter to win in a drawing of five \$50 Visa gift cards. The random drawing will take place on April 3rd. Winners will be notified by Point Park's Office of Marketing and Communications and listed in the next issue of The Point.

So go ahead and let us know. We value your input.



INTEGRATING INTELLIGENCE

Special Agent **William J. Crowley**, director of media relations for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Pittsburgh office, spoke at Point Park on Nov. 1 as part of the University's Integrated Marketing Communications Luncheon series. The event was co-sponsored by the Integrated Marketing Communications Program and the Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies. Crowley spoke with students about his work in media relations and how the FBI actively communicates with other organizations.

OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE?

Caroline Nicolian, senior musical theater major in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, performed the national anthem at a rally

A POINTED LECTURE

Nicolas Petrov, professor of dance in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, presented *A Point View on Dance* as part of the University's 2008 Leonard Finkelhor Faculty Lecture on Oct. 22 in the Lawrence Hall ballroom. Nicolas Petrov studied dance in his native Yugoslavia. He started as corps de ballet with Ballet de France, working his way into the ranks of soloist with many other

and *Juliet*. The Finkelhor Faculty Lecture was established in honor of the late **Leonard Finkelhor**, husband of **Dr. Dorothy Finkelhor**, and founders of the University.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESERVATION

Point Park presented an exhibition featuring the work of Slovak photographer **Rastislav**

TALKING BACK

Broadway legend **Elaine Stritch** visited Point Park's Pittsburgh Playhouse for a talk back session on her one-woman performance of "Elaine Stritch at Liberty" which was performed as a benefit for the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater in October 2008. Stritch, 83, has a long career on stage that has included working with such Broadway notables as **Ethel Merman**, **Noel Coward**, **George Abbott** and **Stephen Sondheim**. Faculty, staff and students filled the Rockwell Theatre for Stritch's candid discussion about her life as a performer.



Elaine Stritch at Pittsburgh Playhouse.

for the presidency of **Barack Obama** on Oct. 27 in the Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh. The 17,000-seat venue was filled to capacity.

companies. He was principal dancer with Balletto Europeo. He founded Ballet Petrov, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and the American Dance Ensemble and has choreographed a number of ballets including the first American production of Prokofiev's *Romeo*

Misik Oct. 17– Nov. 30 in the second floor gallery of Thayer Hall. The exhibition, "Banska Stiavnica," features the sites of Banska Stiavnica, a fully preserved medieval city in central Slovakia that is listed as a United Nations World Heritage Site. During his visit to campus, Misik presented his work and stories to photography and sociology classes in addition to conducting a photography portfolio review. Misik's visit was organized by the School of Communication and the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences within the School of Arts and Sciences.

ELIMINATING VIOLENCE

Point Park hosted the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh's "Week Without Violence" program on Oct. 24 in the J VH Auditorium in Thayer Hall. Writer **Elizabeth Kirschner** presented "Confronting Violence Against Women," which included readings from her book of poems, *My Life As A Doll*. The annual Week Without Violence, sponsored

by the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh, focused attention on practical, sustainable non-violent alternatives.

REPORTING FROM THE HILL

David Greene, NPR (National Public Radio) White House correspondent, visited Point Park Dec. 1 and 2 as part of a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters. During his visit he met with classes, interviewed with student media and observed and offered post-newscast critiques for Field Reporting, Interviewing and Editing students. Greene also gave a formal presentation to the University community and met with University officials. Greene can be heard on NPR programs including Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Weekend Edition, Day to Day and Talk of the Nation. **Diane Sutter**, president and CEO of Shootingstar Broadcasting of New England,

will be visiting campus as an invited speaker in the spring.

SOUP'S ON

Members of the **Point Park baseball team** volunteered at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen in the Hill District during the month of



December 2008. At least a dozen players helped out by preparing fruit and vegetable salads, serving food, cleaning tables, doing dishes, stocking shelves,

unloading shipments of food and mopping floors. The Jubilee Soup Kitchen is located on Wyandotte Street off of Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh. The kitchen serves food to the hungry of Pittsburgh at noon 365 days a year. For information on volunteering, call the Jubilee Soup Kitchen at 412-261-5417.

With Annual Fund support, one less student is left behind...



- Every gift no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of our students.
- Strong alumni participation helps increase Point Park's ranking for Alumni Support.
- With the increasing changes in federal funding, a weakening economy and family struggles, students face more challenges than ever before. Your support, now more than ever, helps to keep their dream of a college education alive despite the times.

To donate online or for more information visit www.pointpark.edu/annualfund or call 412.392.3999.

Getting Down to

Students Create Plans for New Businesses at Point Park

By Camille Downing

Most people would agree that learning is most effective when a student becomes intimately involved in the classroom experience. For students in the Introduction to Business courses last fall, learning was taking place at a rapid pace, thanks to an innovative approach to fully understanding business theories and practices.

Students were involved in a school-wide business plan competition in which they were given hands-on experience with creating, developing and starting a new business—at least on paper. While the students were not actually footing the financing or building storefronts, they gained first hand knowledge of the intricacies of entrepreneurship as they planned all aspects of the start up of their new business.

It all began in Provost Charles Perkins' class as he strove to teach his students about the ins and outs of business management. In an effort to bring the lessons to life, he approached Elaine Luther, associate professor in the School of Business, about bringing their sections together to participate in a competition. Three classes had students form groups that were charged with the task of researching and developing a plan to open a new business on the University campus. It was up to each group to determine the needs and interests of the University community, then develop a plan to reach them through a new product or service.

The results were impressive as the creative minds of the students took flight. The ideas revolved around what is most important to students: food, studying, entertainment and specialized services that make life easier.

“In their plans, the students showed some areas where campus needs were not being met,” explained Luther. “They saw a gap between supply and demand, and then really thought out how they could meet these needs based on a solid business model.”

Madori Rouse, a freshman business major, and her group developed a Web site titled studentprice.com.

Business

This university-based site would be a clearinghouse for textbook exchanges in which students receive and spend credits for books they need each semester.

Mike Palmer, a freshman business major, and his group decided there were not enough sweet treats close by and developed a plan to bring a Dairy Queen to the campus. His group saw this need after noticing there were no major food chains, other than Starbucks, on campus.

Marie Maullon, a senior mass communication major, and her group developed Work&Play, an Internet gaming café where customers could play board or video games and surf the Internet.

Of the 16 plans initially presented, ten teams were chosen to participate in a three-hour competition held in the JVH Auditorium. Dressed in their best business attire, the students developed PowerPoint presentations and explained in detail their ideas to a panel consisting of faculty members Bob O’Gara, School of Communication, and Paige Beal, School of Business, and administrative staff J.W. Tabacchi, student affairs, and Ruth Rauluk, purchasing.

Two teams took home first place honors. The first, consisting of Annie Perri, senior broadcasting major; Ben Cole, senior broadcasting major; Amy Bell, senior advertising and public relations major; Steve

Studentprice.com teammates Madori Rouse, Elizabeth Meedler, Ashley Smith, Jenee Pastva and Work&Play teammates Colin Vilsack and Marie Maullon



Photograph by Ric Evans



From left: Dairy Queen teammates Lee Bonar, Drew Kury, Mike Palmer, Dillon Sauers and Nick Merich

Photograph by Ric Evans

Linkowski, junior broadcasting major; and Caitlin Smith, freshman business management major; developed a plan for an organic grocery store and fast food restaurant. The second was a laundry and dorm room cleaning service developed by Angelica Blouch, sophomore journalism and mass communication major, and Danielle Gruzosky, junior broadcasting major. A runner up prize was given to Eric Perkins, freshman business management major; Holly Shrum, freshman accounting major; Brianne Feindt, freshman business management major; and Zeke O’Donnell, freshman business management major, for their plan to place vending machines with microwaves in the dormitories.

The students who were involved in the competition gave rave reviews about this different approach to teaching.

“The competition helped me better comprehend the theories learned in class because we were really working on the plan and applying the theories ourselves,” notes Maullon. “It wasn’t information just memorized or the typical research paper on a company. It was starting something from scratch and being able to work through it to the end.”

Rouse agrees. “I want to be an event planner someday and own my own business. The competition helped me to learn how to brainstorm ideas and get a real feel for developing a business plan. It was really good.”

For Luther, the students’ work optimally captured the concepts and theories she teaches in her class every semester.

“The students really thought through how they would run their businesses,” says Luther. “They seemed to like their ideas – we might just have some entrepreneurs in the making.”

Who knows? With Point Park University expanding so rapidly, one of the new business ideas bred by a simple class project may just end up being part of the plans for the new Academic Village Initiative.

Students Photograph Youth to Increase the Potential of Adoption through the Pittsburgh Heart Gallery

By Kate Beard Miller



Double Exposure

After countless hours of practicing the technical aspects of digital photography, 14 Point Park students closed their books and took their cameras on location to the University Center for a practical, real-life assignment that could lead to matching children and teens with adoptive families.

Chris Rolinson, assistant professor in the School of Communication, encouraged his students to engage the subjects of the photo shoot: four boys, between the ages of 10 and 17, who are part of foster care or residential programs for children who have been removed from their homes because of family crisis, abuse or neglect. Their photographs will be

part of the Pittsburgh Heart Gallery, which is used as a child-specific and general recruiting tool for potential adoptive families throughout Western Pennsylvania. The traveling exhibit can be seen on display throughout the Pittsburgh community. It is modeled after the Pennsylvania Heart Gallery, which is supported by the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange. The Pittsburgh gallery, organized by Three Rivers Adoption Council, highlights children and teens who are waiting to be placed with a “forever family.” This particular photo shoot included children registered with Holy Family Institute, Adelphoi Village and Family Pathways.

“Kids who are adopted and grow up in families do so much better. We really

*From left: Luke, William, Alias.
Photos by (respectively): Emily
Sniegocki, junior photography
major; Molly Foster, sophomore
photojournalism major; and
Chelsey Engel, sophomore
photojournalism major.*



Photograph by Laura Petrilla

go the extra mile and it saves in the end,” said Lee Maley, adoption caseworker at Adelphoi Village in Greensburg, Pa. “Most of our kids are above 10 years old and they want to find a family.” Maley described a young woman who has grown up through Adelphoi Village’s program and just completed her first semester in college. He said she is still open to finding an adoptive family but was not able to participate in the Heart Gallery photo shoot due to her class schedule.

For many students, this was their first experience working with subjects outside of the classroom.

“It’s my first professional experience,” said Abby Neely, sophomore photography major. “I like that we can help these kids.”

Prior to the photo shoot, the students met with the subjects over cookies and juice in a room just beyond several clusters of tripods and studio strobes. The students asked about where their subjects grew up and what they like to do in their spare time.

Luke is 16 years old and likes to play baseball and enjoys the outdoors. William is 15 years old and, aside from video games and football, he has a growing interest in girls. Alias is a 17 year-old Steelers fan who hopes to someday own a carpentry business. Cody, the youngest of the group at 10 years old, is shy yet admits he enjoys the opportunity to get out of school for the day as he has traveled from Erie, Pa with a caseworker.

“Whatever it takes to get the kids exposure, to get them a family; that’s what is important,” said Sheila Hill, child specific recruitment specialist at Three Rivers Adoption Council. “The experience with the Point Park students was wonderful. They really took time to get to know the kids and to take the best pictures.”

Previous assignments in the Intro to Digital Photography class covered lighting, composition and technical aspects of capturing a well exposed image.

“It pulls all their skills together and gets them to put into practice what they’ve learned in theory,” said Rolinson. “It gives them the opportunity to put all of that together into one package.”

The students grouped into teams and selected

locations throughout the center that would make for suitable backdrops. They took turns suggesting poses and directing the shoot from behind the camera. The students created a comfortable atmosphere by engaging their subjects in conversation and giving positive feedback about the photos. Some of the students encouraged input from the subjects by showing them their portraits on the camera’s LCD screen.

The students’ next assignment is to print the images for the Pittsburgh Heart Gallery. In addition, the students will create their own exhibition, which will be included in Point Park’s Panopticon exhibit in the JVH Gallery.

“This puts a whole new spin on portraits with a big emphasis on getting to know your subject so that they’ll open up to you and you can get that portrait,” said Sarit Work, junior photojournalism major. “I’m a huge fan of this organization and I hope we can do this again. If we can help them out in this small way, it’s something we should do as often as we can.”

Since its inception, 28 of the 77 total children featured in the gallery were placed in pre-adoptive homes. Of those, 15 children had their adoptions finalized. As each child is adopted, a special sticker is placed on his or her portrait. The portraits of those children who are successfully placed will be given to their adoptive families as a keepsake.

For more information about any of the children featured in the Pittsburgh Heart Gallery, please call Sheila Hill at 412-471-8722.

Photograph by Laura Petrilla



BIG

By Elizabeth May

S C R E E N D R E A M S



From left: Jeremy Clemmer and Lou D'Ambrosio discuss their latest screenwriting projects. Photograph by Ric Evans

Point Park's new screenwriting major gives aspiring writers a leg up in the competitive entertainment industry.

A young, bearded man struggles and grunts as he tries to free himself from duct tape handcuffs. "So, what do you have to say for yourself?" says the man sitting across the room. The young man, who also has his mouth taped shut, looks at the man pointedly. The bad guy looks down for a moment, realizing this was a pretty stupid question.

"It seems our mutual acquaintance is Mary," the thug says. "She must be trying to thwart my plans for ruining Christmas."

The film—an irreverent, but funny glimpse into a plot by Joseph to destroy Christmas after he finds out

he's not Jesus' real father (a fact he discovers in a very entertaining scene on the "Givaldo Rivera" show)—was written, directed, filmed and performed by six Point Park University film students, including Jeremy Clemmer (who plays God) and Lou D'Ambrosio (who plays the young man kidnapped by Joseph).

"Twice a year, our student-run cinema society hosts the "24-hour film festival," explains Clemmer. "Basically there is a prompt toward your film's subject matter. Students then form their own groups and have a total of 24 hours to quickly make the film. I love the improvisation of ideas and jokes, since we also tend to act in everything we film. The final film is a testament to hard work and having fun."

...

Like the 24-hour film festival, Point Park's new screenwriting major will encourage collaboration and out-of-the-box thinking to create an engaging story. Housed within the Department of Cinema and Digital Arts, the new major—with a planned launch date in fall 2009—will build on the current curriculum's existing strengths, broadening and expanding what was previously a concentration in screenwriting.

"We diversified the course offerings so that students can learn how to write for television, documentaries, interactive media and the Web—in addition to feature films," says Fred Johnson, chair and associate professor of cinema and digital arts, and director of the new screenwriting program.

"Our hope is to train filmmakers and screenwriters who recognize that good storytelling is essential to good filmmaking," Johnson says.

He explains that, in addition to a focus on creative storytelling, the program will emphasize collaboration, providing students with the opportunity to see their scripts produced as films. "Screenwriters will have the opportunity to make films and work with actors, so they can better understand how the directors, cinematographers, producers, editors and actors work with the scripts they write."

...

Seniors Clemmer and D'Ambrosio both feel like they've been lucky to see their work brought to life at Point Park. In addition to the films they've completed through the student cinema society's 24-hour film festival, they worked with other students in their

concentration (screenwriting for Clemmer and directing for D'Ambrosio) to produce short films in their junior year, as part of a class assignment.

"It was an eye-opening experience, almost like simulating the real world of film production," says Clemmer.

This year, the big project for screenwriting students is a full-length feature script. Clemmer is half way through his—a "sci-fi comedy drama" about a loner who discovers a parallel dimension.

"You're writing the script with, hopefully, the task of either selling it or producing it into a movie," Clemmer says. "It's one thing to graduate with a diploma that says you're a screenwriter, but if you never actually write anything, you're not a writer."

...

That's not a problem for Clemmer, who's had ample opportunities to hone his craft. He's completed seven short scripts and three feature-length scripts to date. Clemmer also landed an internship last summer reading and reviewing scripts for Intrinsic Value Films/Red Giant Media in New York City.

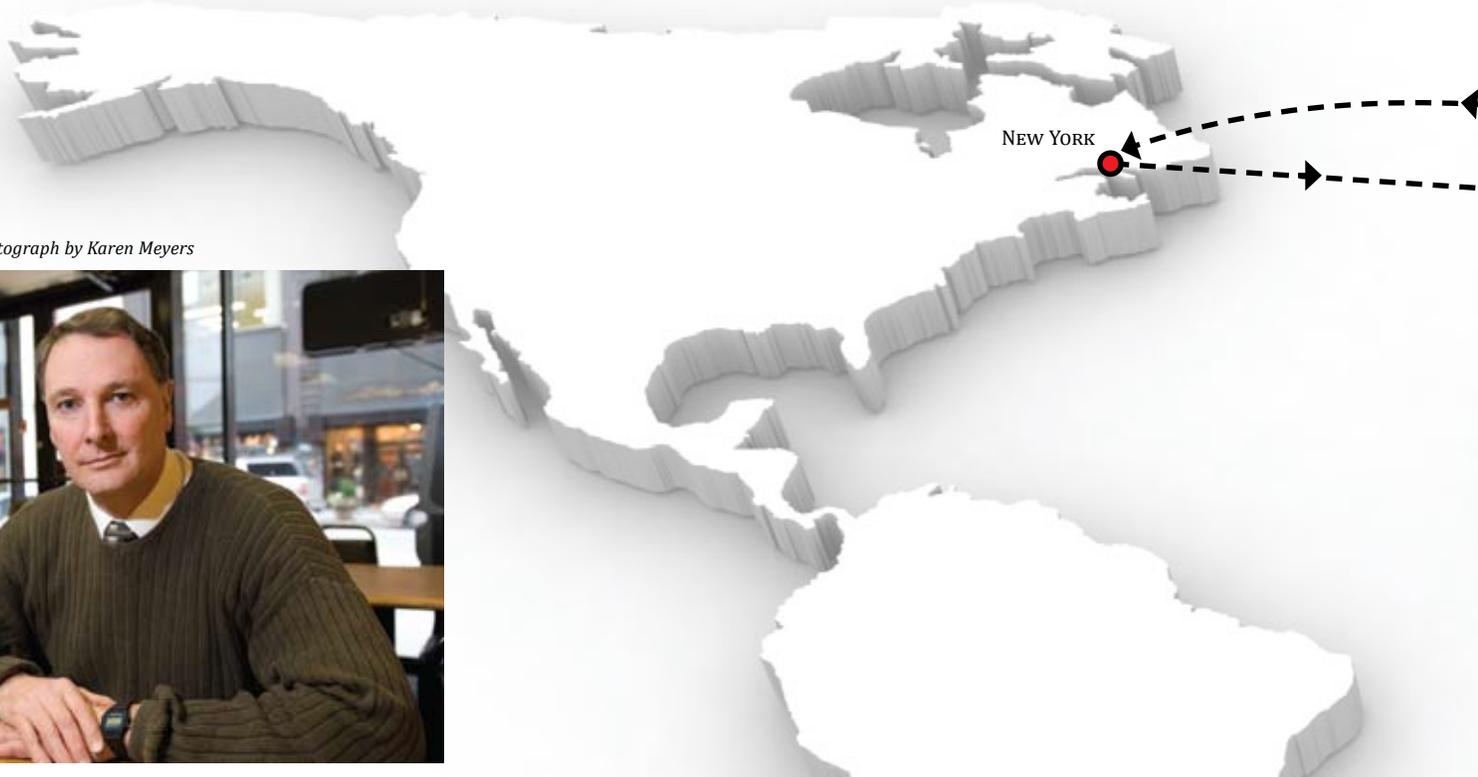
Like Clemmer, future screenwriting majors will have plenty of opportunities to write while they're at Point Park—but, with one big difference. Thanks to the structure of new major, they'll start right away.

"In many other programs, students spend two years taking core courses and undergraduate requirements. This forces them to sit on the sidelines waiting to do what they love," says Johnson. "One big advantage of both the cinema production and screenwriting bachelor's degrees at Point Park is that students start to work in their major the first semester at school. Filmmaking and screenwriting are complex crafts, and the more time students can work within their discipline, the more prepared they'll be to produce quality work when they graduate."

D'Ambrosio agrees.

"I really feel like the cinema program has been a big help preparing me for my future," he says. "The program here is set up to give you very well-rounded knowledge when it comes to filmmaking. Then, once you have these skills, you can decide which direction you'd like to go for the future."

And, for promising young filmmakers like Clemmer and D'Ambrosio, there's only one direction to go: Up.



Photograph by Karen Meyers



Revisiting the Trail of a TERRORIST

By Kelli McElhinny

IN March 1973, a Palestinian terrorist group hatched a plot to detonate car bombs outside of two Israeli bank branch locations in Manhattan and at the El-Al airline terminal at Kennedy International Airport in New York. Their plan fizzled, however, when faulty wiring thwarted the explosions.

Flyers retrieved from one of the cars implicated Black September, a group that also was responsible for the murder of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, in the attack. The Federal Bureau of Investigation issued a warrant for a Black September member known as Khalid Duhham al-Jawari shortly after the attack, but he became a fugitive and no perpetrators were taken into custody at the time.

The case remained dormant until 1988, when a young FBI agent who had been recently promoted to the New York Police Department-FBI joint terrorism task force found its 20 volumes of files on his desk one morning. That agent was Michael Finnegan.

“I honestly don’t think [the supervisor] assigned me the case to find him. I think he did it to make my life uncomfortable,” said Finnegan, who is now an assistant professor in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies.

Finnegan was up to the challenge. After re-interviewing some 300 people who were originally questioned in the days and weeks immediately following the plotted attack, he



constructed a 30-page personality profile on the suspect. He also had colleagues in Washington alter the driver's license photo from the rental car company's files to reflect the suspect's appearance after 15 years.

His efforts paid off in late 1990 when his review of the evidence and a strong network of contacts led him to a Cyprus-based official of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Unfortunately, the suspect got wind that the FBI was on his trail and fled to Baghdad.

The suspect stayed under the radar until the following year, when he surfaced in Rome. Finnegan had issued a provisional warrant for Al-Jawari's arrest in Italy, among other countries, so Italian authorities detained him.

After an extradition process that dragged on for 18 months, much longer than the typical 30- to 90-day window, Finnegan flew to Italy himself in order to make sure that the handoff didn't get botched.

"That was an unreal experience," Finnegan said of the harrowing trip. "Switzerland banned us from their airspace on the way back, and other countries wouldn't let us land, so we had to refuel in midair.

"They missed on the first try, but, fortunately, it worked the second time."

Incidentally, the United States might have missed a much earlier opportunity to take Al-Jawari into custody. The suspect, who has also been referred to in published accounts as Khaled Mohammed El-Jassem, had previously been arrested in 1978 in Germany but released by German authorities shortly thereafter, although he was found with over 100 pounds of plastic explosives, detonators and eight forms of photo identification under different names.

"To this day, I still don't know what his true identity is," said Finnegan, who continues to refer to the man as Al-Jawari.

Upon Al-Jawari's arrival in the United States, he was charged with three counts of attempted bombing, with each count carrying a 10-year sentence. Delays and continuances requested by Al-Jawari's legal team pushed his trial back until March 1993, just days after the first bombing of the World Trade Center. At trial, prosecutors produced all three intact explosive devices recovered in 1973 as well as Al-Jawari's 1973 international driver's license which he used to rent the three vehicles used to plant the bombs. However, only one piece of evidence directly tied Al-Jawari to the actual devices—a lone fingerprint lifted from a propane tank attached to a bomb inside one of the rental cars—Al-

Jawari was convicted after a trial that lasted less than a week. The trial judge sentenced Al-Jawari to the maximum term of 30 years in prison (three consecutive ten-year sentences) with a recommendation that he serve the entire sentence. However, under the federal sentencing guidelines operative at the time of the offense, a 30-year sentence can be reduced with good behavior in the prison system.

Now 61 years old and 16 years later, Al-Jawari has nearly completed his sentence and is scheduled to be released from prison in February.

Throughout the entire process, as Al-Jawari changed legal teams and transferred between different prisons, Finnegan remained the lone constant in his life. Over time, the two men developed a friendship of sorts.

“It was never a hostile situation,” Finnegan said. “For us, it was professional courtesy. I was always respectful toward him.”

For several years after his conviction, Al-Jawari would occasionally call Finnegan collect from the Federal Correctional Institution where he was lodged. However, after Al-Jawari’s transfer to the United States Supermax Federal Prison in Florence, Colo., all telephonic contact ceased. Finnegan is not aware of Al-Jawari’s post-prison plans.

While Al-Jawari may have been the highest profile criminal in Finnegan’s arrest portfolio, he was one of many captured in the illustrious FBI career of a man who at one time thought his poor vision would preclude him from pursuing law enforcement as a vocation.

After all, Finnegan had been rejected for employment by a number of local police departments before he decided to enroll in law school at the University of Pittsburgh. Nonetheless, when the FBI sent a recruiter to Pitt, he went to hear her speak. The recruiter was a former Catholic nun, and that piqued Finnegan’s curiosity.

Photograph by Karen Meyers



When the recruiter listed off the bureau’s physical fitness requirements, Finnegan realized that, with corrected vision, he would qualify. Then, he had a question for her.

“I was sort of a smartaleck, so I asked her how an ex-nun could possibly meet those requirements,” he said.

She showed him, dropping to the ground to do pushups, and thus began Finnegan’s 20-year FBI odyssey. His work took him to Wisconsin, West Virginia and eventually back to Pittsburgh in addition to his tenure in New York, and he pursued cases ranging from public corruption to gang violence.

When Finnegan retired from the bureau in 2004, he was ready for a new adventure. He tried his hand at writing screenplays and television shows, and while some of them garnered interest in Hollywood, nothing ever came to fruition. A few years into his retirement, a chance encounter led him to Point Park.

Finnegan was on his way home from the gym one day when ran into an acquaintance who was on the Point Park faculty and encouraged him to think about coming on board as an adjunct professor. The idea wasn’t a completely foreign one for Finnegan.

“My wife always told me I should teach, so I told him I would go in for an interview. They gave me the job,” he said.

The following semester, he landed a full-time faculty position at the school and is now on the tenure track. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, along with a popular course on federal test-taking.

The opportunity turned out to be a perfect one for Finnegan, whose passion for his work becomes clearly evident within the first few minutes of a conversation with him.

“I love my students,” Finnegan said. “I respect and admire them for trying as hard as they can, and I do my best to prepare them as well as I can.”

His real-world experience in law enforcement is a particularly valuable asset to his work in the classroom, noted Karen S. McIntyre, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Photograph by Karen Meyers

Cold Case Crime Scene COMES TO LIFE

“I love my students,” Finnegan said. “I respect and admire them for trying as hard as they can, and I do my best to prepare them as well as I can.”

“Professor Finnegan knows what kinds of competencies will be expected of his students, and he stays very well-connected,” McIntyre said. “He is able to keep the coursework real and relevant to the students.

“He’s also able to use examples from his professional career to show why they need to succeed even in courses that aren’t related to their major.”

Finnegan puts a great deal of effort into staying current and keeping abreast of developments in the FBI and in law enforcement in general. He maintains a law license and occasionally practices in the Pittsburgh area. He also recently presented a paper on pre-9/11 intelligence failures at a conference at Oxford University in England.

For criminal justice students who may find themselves tracking down terrorists or drug dealers someday, Finnegan’s classes present a healthy dose of realism and preparation for their future careers. Even his colleagues pick up a few things from him.

“You definitely read a newspaper differently after you talk to him,” McIntyre said.

For more information related to this article, visit the Point Extras page at pointpark.edu/pointextras.



Photograph by Tom Bell

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, a model of the Lizzie Borden house was unveiled by Steven Koehler, Ph.D., adjunct faculty member in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies, in the lobby of Lawrence Hall. Students and faculty gathered to see the miniature crime scene created by David Presnell and James Hudak, students at the Pittsburgh Art Institute. Koehler conceptualized the replica as a teaching tool for visual and hands-on learning and collaborated with Bill Mitas, professor of industrial design at the Pittsburgh Art Institute.

“This will provide a scaled version of a real crime scene which will make the students think of different forensics available for analysis,” Koehler said. “This step-by-step examination of evidence allows for a unique hands-on approach for the students.”

The model of the Borden house includes furnished bedrooms where the murders took place, bodies, blood splatter and removable floor levels for easy access. The model is a 1/12 scaled replica of the house as it was when Lizzie Borden was tried and acquitted of the stabbing deaths of her father and stepmother in Fall River, Mass. in 1892. While she was the only suspect and was in the home at the time of the murders, there was not enough evidence to convict Borden of the crime without modern forensic technologies.

The model will be used in forensic science classes in the spring of 2009. Koehler said another collaboration with the Pittsburgh Art Institute is in the works for a model of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Point of View

Professor Joan Mosey on Business Ethics in Uncertain Times

By Kate Beard Miller

Joan Mosey is a professor and director of the information technology program in the School of Business. She is photographed in the future site of the School of Business on the 12th floor of the West Penn Building on Wood Street.

Photograph by Karen Meyers

Q. Point: Do you believe business ethics have improved over the last 30 years?

A. Mosey: No, business ethics hasn't improved. What is different in the last 30 years is that large corporations have had to pay more attention so that they do not get involved in lawsuits. Until laws are passed and regulations occur that tell us we have to do something differently, we concentrate on the bottom line. Ethics is ethics. It's not just about what one ought to do or what's right and wrong. It's really more about trying to find universal values, principals and virtues that contribute to the good life. Philosophers in Western philosophy have always contemplated what makes a just society. Some students come into the classroom thinking that ethics is just their value system. So the first thing I always says is ethics has nothing to do with your religion, it has nothing to do with your value system, it has nothing to do with the legal system, it has nothing to do with what society values as right, because that changes. It's really a quest to discover those universal values and principals that will give us the good life and the just society.

Q. Point: In your opinion, could our current economic state be attributed to poor judgment, unethical behavior or both?

A. Mosey: I think there were a lot of very well intentioned people, CEOs, CFOs, who just didn't know the decisions they were making were really poor ones. That's at the best. But there were many people in business, those with the most to gain, who had unbridled greed. We've all heard of Enron, WorldCom, and Lehman Brothers and all the financial institutions we're bailing out: Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. We may have just seen the very tip of the iceberg.

Q. Point: In these uncertain times, do you feel that companies will behave less ethically in their own-self interest? Or could companies react by realigning their ethical standards?

A. Mosey: The good thing is, in times of crisis, people become much more introspective and contemplative. As a corporation is nothing more than a bunch of people, now is the time to apply what we've been thinking about. If we decide, as consumers, that we will support sustainable business, we will get sustainable businesses.

Q. Point: With recent bailouts and layoffs, should executives be expected to take a cut in salary?

A. Mosey: If they had the slightest bit of humility, it wouldn't be expected, it would be the only thing to do. If you're going to provide ethical leadership, you have to let go of the ego. We need leaders who listen, think and question and who do not feel vulnerable at being wrong. I believe there are universal principles like integrity, compassion, humility and courage. If you have leaders who can create that ethical culture inside the business, then you do everything differently.

Q. Point: When looking at the large number of foreclosures across the United States, it could be argued that both the predatory lenders and consumers share the blame. Are companies expected to act more ethically than individuals?

A. Mosey: We all share the blame. Capitalism married greed and this is what we've got. Companies cannot be expected to act more ethically than individuals. Companies are nothing more than a group of individuals to begin with. How could we ever expect a company to act more ethically? We can't.

Q. Point: As a result of sub prime mortgages, deflated stocks and bailouts, do you believe that there will be more regulation in the future?

A. Mosey: Most definitely. And there will be something else: over the last eight years, we've lacked enforcement of regulation. There have been a lot of regulatory laws on the books, yet there hasn't been any enforcement to make

sure companies follow the regulations. But that's not really the point, we have to be more self-regulated and that's why ethics is so important because that's where a business can build the culture of integrity.

Q. Point: In many cases, those found to be acting unethically seem to be without remorse. What do you believe causes these individuals to view the world so differently?

A. Mosey: When you think about an ethical leader, you think about one who has self-knowledge. A true leader empowers people and that means humility; that you're able to give up power. Ethics implies that you don't have a just society without people living together in community and caring for one another. Unethical individuals are totally without self-knowledge, they're not contemplative and they're caught up in their ego. As you gain in power, your ego begins to take over. They begin to feel they're special and they deserve more. Power is addictive.

Q. Point: Have globalization and technological advances improved or weakened ethics or both?

A. Mosey: Technological advances are coming fast and they're huge. We cannot stop it, but we can manage it. If we decide, as a people, that we want to produce good from our technology, then that will happen. If, however, greed and power are the winners, it could destroy us. For example, radio-frequency identification or RFID, makes George Orwell look like he's not even close. With RFID, every product, every person and every animal could have a chip imbedded that could track what you are doing, where you are and who you're around every minute of the day. There are prototypes for this technology in use today. People don't realize the amount of harm that can be done with this technology by those who are unethical. The economic globalization has embraced capitalism. We have a much tougher problem, to bring us all together because we're so diverse. But once again, ethics is perfectly placed because we're talking about universal principles and values. I'm optimistic about this. We already have organizations that talk about a global code of conduct in business and that's a good thing.

Q. Point: Is free trade an ethical issue for our increasingly global economy?

A. Mosey: Sure. Capitalism is built on free trade. What has been problematic: in order to make sure that we can offer our customers the lowest price, we've outsourced our manufacturing by going into third world countries to manufacture and pay the workers peanuts. Then we bring that product back in and sell it for way more, but still at a low cost. Wal-Mart is a perfect example. Wal-Mart will buy from the lowest manufacturing bidder. Wal-Mart is not a particularly ethical company even though now they're trying to say that they care. You have to remember that social responsibility is not ethical responsibility. Corporations must say that they care. Behind the scenes, those are words, marketing tools.

Q. Point: Do you feel sustainability will continue to be a key word in the future of ethics?

A. Mosey: Absolutely. That's the only way we can go. A sustainable business is like having a three-legged stool. One of the legs is people, another one is planet and the third is profit. And so a sustainable business says, I have an obligation to the people, my stakeholders, to the planet, and to profit. If you don't have ethical leaders, you will never have a sustainable business.

Professor Mosey can be reached at jmosey@pointpark.edu.

Inspired Alumna Creates Art for Academic Hall

Lynn Fero has always had a creative streak. She takes every opportunity to create, whether it is acting, writing, teaching or painting, and she attributes her education at Point Park to preparing her for her career every step of the way.

After graduation her mother encouraged her to move to New York to pursue her dream. She was up for the challenge and left her hometown of Penn Hills, Pa.

Within a few years of living in the city, she took a secretarial position at Viacom, which was then a small business. In a mere eight years, Lynn received a series of promotions and became vice president of business affairs administration. She has held the same position through buy-outs and mergers from Paramount Pictures to CBS Television Distribution where she manages the classic film and television library.

However she found her greatest creative fulfillment in an unexpected way. After her father passed away, she asked her mother, an artist, to teach her how to paint.

"Sometimes when a parent does something well, you build up a wall and say 'I can't do that.'" For Lynn, painting became a wonderful outlet of emotion during the time of mourning for her father. She found it was a natural talent she had never explored or taken time to develop.

Fero is well known for her impressionistic landscapes using bold colors and strong, dramatic composition.

In 2007 when Fero returned to Point Park as commencement speaker, she met Jack Tomayko, an art collector and member of Point Park's Board of Trustees. He recently commissioned Fero to create new works to be displayed the administrative suite of Academic Hall. In one such painting, she created a series of trees symbolic of a student's journey out into the world.

During a recent visit to Point Park in the fall, Fero toured the campus and said she was surprised at how the University has grown and improved.

"Watching Point Park evolve just makes you grin with pride." She said her educational experience at Point Park was exceptional and was thrilled to see how the University continues to prepare students for achieving their dreams.

"Life is about the art. It's that feeling you get when you create something and someone else looks at what you've expressed – there are no words to describe it. That is very satisfying and that's when you find real purpose."



John Isaac Harris

Alumnus Serves Detroit Kids as Teacher, Coach and Community Leader

"Larry Anderson was a big influence on my life," says John Isaac Harris (A&S 1983) about the Point Park University Hall of Fame member. "As a coach and member of the student affairs staff, he took an interest in me, helping me to determine my major and succeed in both basketball and academics."

The combination remains a big part of John Harris' life, thanks to Anderson and other Point Park University faculty and administrators. Today Harris is a teacher, basketball coach and civic leader in Detroit. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in public administration, Harris returned to his hometown to gain a master's degree in education from Wayne State University and serve his community.

He is running for Detroit City Council this year (www.johnharristodetroitcitycouncil2009.com), while maintaining a busy schedule of teaching 10th and 12th grade special education students and running H.O.P.E., or "Helping Other People Everyday," a program he founded to promote community involvement. He stays active in basketball through his company "Shooting for Excellence," which provides conditioning and offensive skills drills at clinics and camps.

"I believe a coach is a teacher first," says Harris.

Kids from elementary school through high school attend "Shooting for Excellence" sessions to work on fundamentals. Along the way, they absorb more than a few lessons about the importance of education and working hard. The boys and girls can earn copies of a manual with photos of all of the offensive drills shown in the session plus conditioning tips, all based on Harris' more than 35 years in the sport.

"Sometimes jobs choose you," says John Harris of his ability to combine sports, community service and education. "Working with kids always seemed to be a natural fit," he says, noting that he is the oldest sibling in his family. "I certainly enjoy teaching and coaching. I also enjoy working with community groups." Harris was a candidate for mayor in 1989 and 1993. The time is right, he says, for his election to Detroit City Council in 2009.

"People are fed up with some of the political leaders here," he says. "They are looking for new, qualified people. I am ready to serve."



BLUEPRINT for a Bright Future

By Cheryl Valyo

\$2 Million Grant from The Heinz Endowments Initiates Architectural Design Process for the Academic Village

Elevated by a \$2 million grant from The Heinz Endowments, which supports the architectural design phase of the University's Academic Village Initiative, Point Park continues to make important strides toward realizing its \$210 million campus master space plan.

Announced last December, the grant from the Heinz Endowments underwrites a comprehensive design process that will result in a specific set of architectural and engineering blueprints necessary for construction of key components of the Academic Village.

In addition, the grant will support a University architect/planner to oversee the initiative in its entirety and to help construct an environmental, sustainable overlay for the project.

"Point Park's campus space plan weaves its presence into the Downtown fabric in a very exciting way," Endowments Chairman Teresa Heinz said. "It expands considerably the opportunity for Point Park students to engage their academic programs in a vibrant urban setting."

Point Park President Paul Hennigan said the Endowments grant allows for the building of "the human infrastructure at the University necessary to undertake the design and construction of our transformational campus plan. We are very grateful to count the endowments as our partner in this initiative."

"Even during these difficult economic times, Point Park is fortunate that we have been able to build upon all of the planning dedicated toward the Academic Village Initiative over the past two years," said Mariann Geyer, vice president for University Advancement.

"This generous grant from the Heinz Endowments has enabled us to move from the concept phase of the



Academic Village, announced last May, into the design phase. This takes us another step closer to construction of some of these key projects.”

For example, “the grant enables the University to carefully select the appropriate architect for the planned public space enhancement at the corner of Wood Street and the Boulevard of the Allies,” said Geyer. Now occupied by a parking lot, the corner will be transformed into an urban park with adjacent retail elements.

The grant also supports the selection of an architect for the design of the student center that will occupy the former YMCA building on the Boulevard, according to Geyer.

“In addition, thanks to the Heinz Endowments, we were able to engage the engineering construction firm GAI Consultants Inc. to produce the design of the planned streetscape enhancements along the Wood Street corridor.”

All of these building projects, along with continued development of the new student residence halls, the Boulevard Apartments on the Blvd. of the Allies, must reflect a continuity of design, according to Geyer. “Our ultimate goal is to produce a well-designed Academic Village that will be good for the University and good for our Downtown neighborhood.”

The design and construction process will also provide a positive economic impact, she added. “We’ll be engaging excellent architects and hiring local design and construction firms, which will also serve to boost local employment, during this next phase of development of the Academic Village.”



Photograph by Tom Bell

Streetscape to Bloom along Wood Street Corridor

One of the most architecturally diverse and continuously used commercial streets in Downtown Pittsburgh, the Wood Street Corridor has long been the beating heart of Point Park. Under the Academic Village Initiative, the street (between Ft. Pitt Blvd. and Third Avenue) will be revitalized to become a truly pedestrian-friendly corridor.

With the help of the Heinz Endowments grant, the University engaged GAI Consultants Inc., a Pittsburgh-based engineering firm that provides transportation, energy, environmental, land development and construction services, to spearhead design for the Wood Street Corridor project.

According to Jim Saxon, project manager for the University, the Wood Street Corridor project will include milling and resurfacing of the street, including new crosswalks, and feature such elements as exposed aggregate and granite.

Among other planned improvements, all of which will comply with city standards, are new pedestrian lighting, new street signals and signage, and additional Point Park “way-finding” signage. Trees will be planted along the street and appropriate irrigation installed, said Saxon.

With the design process and survey phase now complete, construction documents are expected to be ready by summer, he said.



A Green Park for an Urban Corner

The surface parking lot at the corner of Wood Street and the Blvd. of the Allies will soon be transformed into a lively park, providing precious urban green space for the University and its neighbors. Funded in part by a \$1.5 million gift from an anonymous donor, the park will also include complementary retail elements (yet to be determined).

“The goal is to create an outdoor plaza for students, faculty and Downtown neighbors, a community green space,” said Saxon. The exterior of the adjacent buildings, including the Boulevard Apartments and Frontier Hall, will also be addressed as part of the design plan.

According to Saxon, the park will likely have a water feature and perhaps space for smaller outdoor concerts and similar activities. “We intentionally left the design guidelines open to encourage a range of ideas and creativity,” he said.

The Heinz Endowments grant helped fund the selection of the appropriate architect for the park, a process that is now underway with a decision expected by early 2009. After a six-month design period, construction may begin later this year.

Boulevard Apartments, Other Renovations Reflect Growing Campus

Immediately adjacent to the planned park, two new student apartment buildings, the Boulevard Apartments, have taken shape at 312-322 Blvd. of the Allies. Completed for occupancy last fall was a \$6.5 million renovation project that converted 312 Blvd. of the Allies into loft-style apartments. The building next door is undergoing similar renovations and will be ready for occupancy in fall, 2009.

Together, these new student apartment buildings will provide space for nearly 200 resident students, according to Saxon. “Each building features premium construction and has been designed so that each apartment is unique in some fashion,” he said.

The new apartments feature full kitchens and private baths for each bedroom. Units on the First Avenue side,

facing the river, have outstanding views. The design for the apartment buildings was completed by Tasso Katselas Architects (TKA), and construction is by Massaro Corporation.

TKA Architects and Massaro have also teamed for design and construction of the new home of the School of Business, which will move from its current location in Thayer Hall into the 11th, 12th and 13th floors of the former West Penn building (at Wood Street and Ft. Pitt Blvd.) in May. The new space will encompass classrooms,

Photograph by Tom Bell



Students are settled into their new accommodations at the Boulevard Apartments

faculty and administrative offices and conference rooms for the School of Business, said Saxon.

In the University’s new LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Dance Studio Building, design and construction of three new dance studios on the fourth floor of the complex is planned for 2009.

From the initiation of the design phase for the Academic Village and upcoming public space enhancement along the Wood Street Corridor, to recent campus development such as the lighting of the upper stories of Lawrence Hall and the completion of a spacious corner lobby entrance for the building, Point Park continues to make strides toward building a vibrant, yet safe and secure environment for its students and its neighbors.

Ahmad ^{with} Simmons



Q. Point: How do you like taking class in the new dance complex?

A. Simmons: I think it's great. There's so much space in the dance studios. I love that they're bright with the big windows. It's nice to see outside and it brings nature in and it's wonderful. The space gives us more opportunity to spread out and not be limited and also it gives teachers more room to come around and correct us and work with us.

Q. Point: What does it mean to you to be able to dance in the first LEED Gold Certified dance complex?

A. Simmons: It's a huge deal. For the dancers who are here now, twenty years from now it will be wonderful to see what's come of it and to know that we were here when it was first created. More places should be like this because we should all make a contribution in going green and to do our part for the environment.

Q. Point: What brought you to Point Park?

A. Simmons: I had no idea that Point Park had such a great dance program. I just stumbled by the application online. I wanted to go to school for musical theater. I got here and auditioned for both and I received better scholarships in dance and that's how I made my decision. Then I found out that our dance program is ranked second in the nation.

Q. Point: What are some of the benefits of this new facility?

A. Simmons: The main benefit is more space. That really creates a lot more opportunity for us.

Q. Point: How do you feel your classmates have responded to this new space?

A. Simmons: They love it. We really love our studios. It brings more opportunity for guest choreographers and when people come in to work with the school, they remember the space and they want to come back to be in these studios. The space is so jazzy and high-tech; it matches the quality of the education that we get.

Q. Point: What style of dance is your concentration here at Point Park?

A. Simmons: I'm concentrating on jazz and modern, so I have a dual major.

Q. Point: What are your plans after graduation?

A. Simmons: Well, I would love to move to New York and work there. I would like, in years down the road, to have my own dance company. But directly out of school, I love musical theater and concert dance, so which ever comes first.

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Fiscal Year 2008 (September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008)

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Patricia Schmidt
Janice Schmitt
James Schnare
Walter Schratz
James Schrenk
Charles Schrockman
James Schultise
Paul Schwartz
Robert Schwille
Angelo Sciulli
Christine Scott
Mary Clark Scott
Patricia Scott
Susan Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott
John A. Scotti
Joseph Scrivofilo
Bruce Seavy
Lanny Seed
Joann Seifried
Cheryl Sella
Alan Semego
Terence Senay
Albert Senic
Clyde Seybert
Michael Shahen
Steve Shanahan
Charles Shapiro
Andrew Shaul
Fredric Sheaffer
John Sheehan
Barry Shenck
Jeffrey Sherman
Damian Shields
Mary Shields
Sharon Shipley
Michele Shivers
James Shock
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shriane
Jack Shrum
William Shuty
Alice Signore
Megan Sikora
Paul Sikov
Arnold Silverman
James Silvestri
Marie Simmons
Eugene Simon
Dr. J. Matthew and Dr. Janet Simon
Kenneth Simon
Estate of John Simpson
Michelle Simpson
Reverend Jason Sinagra
Carol Sinatra

Tony Sinatra
Patrick Sinopoli
Sean Skelley
Vicki L. Skinner
Cathie Skoog
Randy Skubek
Andrew Skurnick, Jr.
Dale Sleva, Jr.
Eric Slifkin
Eric and Susan Slifkin
Laura Smagala
Judy Small
Sally Smiley
Philip and Ann Smith
Bernard Smith
Gary Smith
Harry Smith
Heidi Smith
Hillary Smith
Janet Smith
Leslie Smith
Melissa Smith
Olivetta Smith
Philip Smith
Dr. Rande Smith
Robert Smith
Robin Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Smith
Sherry Snyder
C. Soboczenski
Richard Sofelkanik
Susan Soniak
Carol Ann Spendiff
Charles Sperandeo
J. Len Sperl
George Spilka
Adam Spitznagel
Wendy Spratt
Mark Stacy
Paula Stadelman
Marie Stadulis
Kelly Staley
Margaret Stampahar
Donald Stanich
Philip Stanson
Marlene Stanton
J. Stauffer
Karen Stauffer
Kathleen Stauffer
Geraldine Stecko
Bruce Steele
Gretchen Steele
Carol Stein
Dr. Lorelei Stein
Steve Stein
Thomas Stein
Barbara Steinberg
David Steinberg
David Steinberger
Margaret Steinman
Todd Stephenson
Kimberly Stuedler
Margaret Stewart
Richard Stewart Jr.
Joan Stiefvater

Stephanie Stockmeister
Mark Stone
James Stoner
Charlotte Stotelmyer
Charles Stout
Grace Stranahan
Deborah Stranger
Ryan Streno
J. Watkins Strouss
Ellen Stubna
Linda Suica
Sam Suica
Maryjane Sunder
Diane Sunderlin
Susan Sundo
Kenneth Sunseri
Kim Sutherland-Evans
Rosemary Svonavec
Daniel Swalga
Charlene Swearngin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Swedish
Sharon Sweeney
Robert Swider, Sr.
David Syskowski
Gail Szafranski
Eugene Szeszak
John Szul
Anthony Szuszczewicz
Mohammad Taheri
Roi Tamkin
Shirley Tannenbaum
Stephen Tanzilli
John Taormina
Mary Beth Taylor
Wendy Taylor
Raymond Tedford
Ronald Telesko
Rodger Temple
Robert Thewes
Denise Thoma
Thomas Thomas
William Thompkins
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Thompson
Lois Thomson
M. Marcia Thorpe
Michael Thorpe
Benjamin Timko
Margaret Tolbert
John Tolentino
Todd Tomasic
John Tomayko, Ph.D.
Leslie Toth
Patricia Tracy
Richard Trainor
Yvonne Trimble
Nicole Trombetta
Melissa Troxell
Janice Truby
Susan Trulove
Marsha Tucker
Terrence Tully
Meltem Tunasar
Michael Tysarczyk
Karen Tysarczyk
Evangeline Ugorji

Scott Unger
Mary Urquhart
Troy Ussack
Judith Utt
John Vagianos
Charlotte Vaidya
Jenny Valente
Roger Valentine
Virginia Valentine
Barbara Van Kirk
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Vandivier
Richard Vangenewitt
Bruce Varga
Patricia Vaughn
Angelo Verdone
Lee Veri
Mary Vesely
Katherine Vidakovich
Mary Vidra
Charles Vietmeier
Kelly Vignale
Deborah Vincent
Thomas Vincett
David Vinski
Patricia Viola
John Visnick
Eleanor Vistein
J. Vogel
Keith Vollberg
Karen Vormack
Barbara Vujevich
Edward and Andrea Wachter
David Wagner
Judith Wagner
Steven Wagner
Steve and Donna Walker
Joseph Walker
Thomas Wallace
Robin Walsh
William Walsh
Delonda Ward
Howard Ward
Ruth Ward
William Warren
Dr. Milton and Dr. Nancy
Washington
Charlotte Waters
Annette Watkins
Paul Wauthier
Barbara Waxenfelter
Lauren Way
Edward Weaver
Ronald Webb
Beverly Weber
Mark Weber
Marvin Wedeen
Diane Weidner
Rebecca Weiler
John Weinstein
Carol Weis
Judith Weismann
Robin Weiss
Stephen Weiss
Robert Welch, III
William Welch
Peter Wentzel

Gail Wesley
Kristin Wessell
Deborah West
Portia Weston
Monique Wetli
Celia Wexler
Eric Wheeling
Dr. Albert Whitcomb
Frank White, III
Dr. George and
Mrs. Kathleen White
Lisa White
Richard Whittier
Julie Whitworth
Clarence Wieder
Michelle Wilden
Valerie Wilden
Cheryl Wilk
Demetrius Williams
Laura Williams
Martha Williams
Stephen Williams
Daniel Willoughby
John Wilson
Lazenia Wilson
Dr. Timothy Wilson
Lori Wilson-Clarke
Margaret Wimmer
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Windle
David Wintermute
Edwin Wintermyer
Philip Winters
Richard Wirth
Mr. and Mrs. James Wise
Scott Wise
Raymond Wisloski
Edward Wisniewski
Elizabeth Witzke-Baum
Mr. and Mrs. John Woffington
Lynda Wojanis
David Wojtaszek
Jessica Wolman
Phoebe Wooding
Christopher Woodley
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Woolridge
Carol Word
Kimberley Wright
Michael L. Wright
Michael R. Wright
William Wright
Edward Wuenschell
Diane Wuycheck
Duane Wykoff
Zemin Xu
Catherine Yakemovic
Stephen Yarnot
Tracy Yates
Sister Rita Yeasted
Samuel and Sandra Young
Paul and Denise Yourick
John Yugovich
Joseph Yuhasse
Tatyana Zagortseva
Jeananne Zamberlan
Mary Zdarko
Georgia Zeedick

Janet Zegar
Thomas Zelch
Mr. Richard and Dr. Nancy Zelonka
Joseph Zenk
Andy Zibritosky
Carl Zibritosky
David Ziemke
Barbara Zirngibl
MARC USA/Stuart M. Zolot
Joe Zord
James Zumbo
Tom Zytka

Corporations & Foundations

1997 Aztec Buildings Corp.
3M Foundation
84 Lumber Co.
A. G. Mauro Co.
ABARTA Inc.
Abbott Laboratories Fund
AFTRA Pittsburgh Local
AHRCO
Alcoa Foundation
All Pro Painters, Inc.
Allegheny County Industrial
Development Authority
AlliedBarton Security Services
Aon Risk Services Inc.
of Pennsylvania
Aramark Educational Services Inc.
Arch Street Management, LLC
Art Institute of Pittsburgh
Barnes and Noble College
Bookstore Inc.
Baum Family Fund
Beechie's
Beynon & Company
Bank of New York Mellon
Boden Inc.
BP Fabric of America Fund
Blattner-Brunner, Inc.
BT Property Associates, LLC
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney P.C.
Building Control Systems Inc.
Business Alternatives
Butler Auto Auction
The Dr. Paul S. and Gertrude F.
Caplan Philanthropic Fund of
the United Jewish Federation
Foundation
Carnegie Motors
Central Property Services L.P.
Chatham University
Chics Place
CJL Engineering
CNA Foundation
Cohen & Grigsby P.C.
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
CWM Environmental Inc.
DB Construction Group, Inc.
Deloitte Foundation
Direct Mail Service Inc.
DJ's 7141 Inc.
DRS Architects
DSF Charitable Foundation

Duncan Financial Group
Duquesne Litho Inc.
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott
Eden Hall Foundation
EHS Support
Elg Haniel Metals Corp
Elizabeth Carbide Die Co. Inc.
Exelon Corporation
Express MED Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Exxon Mobile Matching Gift Fund
Federal Home Loan Bank
of Pittsburgh
Federated Investors Inc.
Feldstein Grinberg Stein & McKee
Fifth Third Bank
Fountainhead Foundation
Frank Sinatra Advertising
Fulton Financial Corporation
GAI Consultants Inc.
GE Foundation
Getting to the Point, Inc.
Glaxo SmithKline
Greater Pittsburgh
Diversity Festival
Greco Gas Inc.
The Heinz Endowments
Henderson Brothers
Highmark Foundation
Highmark Inc.
Hilda M. Willis Foundation
Hilton Pittsburgh & Towers
Hornfeck Engineering Inc.
Howard Hanna Realty
Huntington National Bank
IBM International Foundation
Industrial Employees Inc.
Jack Horner Communications Inc.
Jewish Healthcare Foundation
JG Drywall Company Inc.
John F. Graff Insurance Agency
Johnson & Johnson
JPMorgan Chase Bank
The Thomas R. T. Kaplan Family
Philanthropic Fund of the United
Jewish Federation Foundation
KDKA-TV2
Kennametal Foundation
Ketchum Inc.
Konhaus-Robertson Agency
Kostovny Electric
Kriebel Minerals Inc.
L. D. Astorino & Associates
Langholz Wilson Ellis Inc.
La Roche College
Lexus of North Hills
Lighthouse Electric Co. Inc.
Littler Mendelson
Logical Automation
M.B. Peterson Charitable Trust
Mahla Office Equipment
MARC USA Inc.
Margaret Hardy Trust
Massaro Corporation
McKamish Chesapeake Inc.
McKnight Development Corporation
MEDRAD

Mellon Financial Corporation Foundation
Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation Inc.
Millcraft Industries Inc.
Modern Reproductions Inc.
Mt. Lebanon Office Equip Co.
Multicultural Arts Initiative
Murray Insurance Agency
Mutual of America
National City Bank of Pennsylvania
Newspaper Guild Of Pittsburgh
Nicklaus Golf Equipment Company
Nico's Recovery Room
Norfolk Southern Charitable Match Trust
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
NOVA Chemicals Inc.
Oxford Development Company
P. J. Dick Inc.
P.L. Frank Inc.
Paul & Dina Block Foundation
Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters
Pennsylvania Trane Inc
Peter Hantz Company, Inc.
Pittsburgh Board of Education
Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation
Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera
Pittsburgh Magazine

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Charities
PNC Bank NA
PNC Foundation
The Remmel Foundation through the PNC Charitable Trust
PPG Industries Foundation
PPG Industries Inc.
Precision Electrical Contractors Inc.
Price Waterhouse Coopers
Private Wealth Advisors Inc.
Procter & Gamble Dist. Co.
Quinn Electric Inc.
R & V Associates
Resources Global Professionals
Richard P. Simmons Family Foundation
Robert Half International Inc.
Shadyside Dentistry
Shadyside Inn
Shaherazad Antique Oriental Rugs Inc.
Sippel Co., Inc.
Sky Insurance
Snyder Brothers, Inc.
Spectra Contract Flooring Services, Inc.
Stacey's Just For You
The Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation Inc.

The Buhl Foundation
The Consortium for Public Education
The Design Alliance Architects
The Grable Foundation
The Hershey Foods Corporation Fund
The Hill Group Inc.
The Hillman Company
The Millstein Charitable Foundation
The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Rockwell Foundation
The Rubinoff Company
The Tomayko Group LLC
Thomas & McMenamin, Inc.
Three Rivers Community Foundation
ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation
TKA Architects
Tomsin Steel Co.
Tribune Review Charities
Tucker Arensberg P.C.
Turner Construction Company
Ullrich Shoe Repair
United States Steel Corporation
UPMC Health Plan
Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

Ventura Group, LLC
Verizon Foundation
Volunteers of America of PA, Inc.
Wachovia Foundation
Wachovia Securities
Washington Family Fund
Washington Mutual Foundation
WAX
Wealth Preservation & Management Inc.
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Westmoreland Supply Inc.
Wholesale Builders Supply
Women's Press Club of Pittsburgh
WPXI-TV
WTAE-TV
WTW Architects Inc.
YMCA of Pittsburgh
Zonta Three Rivers Pittsburgh North



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Point Park University with two words.

Your Name!

Consider naming Point Park University as a beneficiary in your will. It's easy. You can leave a specific amount to the University or leave a percentage of your entire estate.

For a confidential consultation, call Barb Cinpinski at 412-392-4215, or e-mail bcinpinski@pointpark.edu.



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Spring is just around the corner and the Point Park Alumni Association is buzzing with all that is new. Our alumni association is now on Facebook and we hope you'll seek out and join the Point Park Alumni Association group. This is just another way to stay connected with your former classmates and alma mater.

If you weren't able to make it to the first-ever alumni association trip to Las Vegas in February, look out for other exciting travel opportunities in 2009. In addition to the many benefits offered by our alumni association, Point Park alumni can now take advantage of our travel Web site and special insurance offers made possible by the Office of Alumni Relations. To find out more, please visit our Web site at pointpark.edu/alumni or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 412-392-4750.

Lastly, I'm proud to report on the launch of our Alumni Association Scholarship. We initiated fund raising for this scholarship at the Second Annual Holiday Alumni Association Dinner held at the LeMont in Pittsburgh on Dec. 13. What better way to support our alma mater than to support its students? To make a donation to the Alumni Association Scholarship, please call 412-392-4750. I hope you will join me in future events and programs to support this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Taormina". The signature is stylized and fluid.

John Taormina (A&S '00, MBA '01)
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

Rob MATZIE



Announcer Elected State Representative

by Colleen C. Derda

Rob Matzie grew up in Ambridge, Pa., listening to politics around the kitchen table. His grandfather was a councilman, and everyone in the family had opinions about local and national politics. His parents even named him after Robert Kennedy.

“The political bug bit me,” says Rob Matzie (COM 1992). “So I started getting involved in my hometown and it progressed from there.”

Matzie was appointed to the planning commission a year after graduating from Point Park University and soon was working for the area’s state senator as a staff member. His first elected seat, in 2002, was a countywide position on the Democratic State Committee. A year later, he was appointed mayor of Ambridge when the officeholder died.

Matzie made major political strides in 2008 when he was elected representative for Pennsylvania’s 16th legislative district, which includes parts of Allegheny and Beaver counties. During the race he received numerous endorsements, including that of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which praised his “knowledge and experience.”

Along with political experience, Rob Matzie has expertise and a Point Park University bachelor’s degree related to another field—broadcasting.

For years, Matzie has served as a play-by-play announcer for MSA Sports Network (www.msasportsnetwork.com), which broadcasts high school and college games on AM and FM stations in the tri-state area and on the

Internet. Before that, he worked for WMBA Radio in Ambridge, a job that helped him pay his way through college.

Matzie announced high school football and basketball games for MSA Sports. Point Park University alums Don Rebel (COM 1987), the network’s operations manager, and announcer Ed Troup (COM ‘02) continue to serve the network.

It was KDKA-TV sportscaster Bob Pompeani (COM 1984), a Beaver County native and Point Park alum who led Matzie to the University to study journalism in the first place.

“I heard all about the program’s storied history,” says Matzie. “Bob Pompeani certainly led me to the right place.”

The announcer/Representative credits the University’s emphasis on professionals teaching practical skills as one of the keys to his success in broadcasting and other areas of life. “I formed many strong relationships at Point Park,” he notes.

As much as Matzie has enjoyed being an announcer, he isn’t planning to combine his political and sports careers anytime soon.

“It takes a lot of preparation to call a game,” says Matzie. “You need to have time to devote to it. Now I need to serve my district during the week and my family on the weekends.”

Rob Matzie and his wife Patty have a six-year-old daughter. The family resides in Ambridge.



Cavaliers' Announcer Launched Career from Point Park Fred McLeod

by Colleen C. Derda



FRED McLEOD (COM 1974) credits a senior-year internship and a long-shot contact made during a baseball championship trip with helping to launch his television broadcasting career. The Cleveland Cavaliers' play-by-play announcer was a broadcast journalism/mass communication major and a pitcher at Point Park College in 1974 when the baseball team traveled to St. Joseph, Mo. for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics College World Series. Realizing that he would need to start in a small market, McLeod

contacted the local television station and asked if he could send an audition tape after returning to Pittsburgh.

"The station manager said he had a job open in sports, and I should come cut a tape," said McLeod. "I went in and banged out a script and did a mock broadcast. I was completely nervous, but I had learned enough and watched Sam Nover (the WPXI-TV veteran sportscaster) enough during my internship that I was able to do it."

McLeod got the job and returned two weeks after graduating.

"It was baptism by fire," says McLeod, noting that he made rookie mistakes while covering studio wrestling and other sports. "But that's how you learn."

McLeod eventually moved to positions with television stations in Steubenville, Ohio and San Francisco, Calif. By age 24, he was working in Cleveland, Ohio as one of the youngest broadcasters in a top-10 market. The National Academy of Arts and Sciences recognized McLeod for achievement in television during his distinguished career.

Fred McLeod made his mark in Detroit, Mich. where he hosted a half-hour weekly sports show and served for 22 seasons

as the voice of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Detroit Pistons. Along the way he was the voice of the Major League Baseball's (MLB) Detroit Tigers and National Football League's Detroit Lions. He also took on play-by-play duties for the MLB's Cleveland Indians during an earlier Cleveland stint.

He is back in his hometown, now in his fourth season with the NBA's Cavs.

He feels well suited to the Cavaliers and basketball in general. "I love the energy and the speed of the game," he says. Plus, Cavaliers' star LeBron James "is an announcer's dream."

The challenge announcing every game, McLeod says, is to enhance the play on the court but not overshadow it.

"A good play-by-play announcer describes the excitement but doesn't go over the top."

Fred McLeod writes about play-by-play announcing for the Cavaliers in a blog, www.cavfanatic.com/fredmcleod/blog.

class notes

1962

Joseph Dentici (BUS 1962), president and owner of Kuhn's Market, will oversee the financing and construction of a full-service grocery store in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Kuhn's Market was selected by the city Urban Redevelopment Authority board. The 40,000-square-foot store will include a pharmacy, bakery and café. The future site of the store is Centre Avenue at Heldman Street.

1980

Jimmy Miller (COM 1980, HON '00) produced *She's Out of My League* to premier in the spring of 2009. The movie is a romantic comedy about an everyday man meeting the girl of his dreams but outside influences affect his confidence about the relationship.

1983

Nancy (Schmitz) Dickson (COM 1983) was recently hired as vice president of public relations and community development at the Community College of Beaver County.



Beverly Edwards (COPA 1983) visited Point Park on Dec. 4 to talk with students about her career as a performer and her transition into her current position as company manager of *Frost/Nixon* while in town for the show's run in Pittsburgh.

1988

David Perozzi (COM 1988) produced *AI Roker Reporting: Armed In America*, a MSNBC documentary for AI Roker Entertainment. The documentary investigates the dangers of working behind the scenes at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to find out how the federal agency is working to eliminate gun crimes in the United States. The show premiered on Nov. 23 at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. It is the first of a series of investigative documentaries reported by "Today" anchor, AI Roker, which will air on MSNBC in the coming months.

1989

Renata Mastrofrancesco (COM 1989) was married on October 4, 2008 to Mark David Shaw. Mrs. Shaw is a staff assistant at Penn State Beaver in Monaca, Pa.

1990

Ellen (Harbold) Gamble (COM 1990) is the Director of Development for Pressley Ridge, which serves troubled children and their families in eight states, the District of Columbia, Portugal and Hungary. Prior to accepting the position at Pressley Ridge, Gamble was the Development Director at Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. Ellen and her husband Eric live in Pittsburgh and she is the proud step-mother of Erica, 22, and Elaine, 20.



1998

Sabrina D'Agosta (COM 1998) is now the Deputy Communications Director for Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper.



Alumnae Linda (Con) Kistler, Robin Brandt, Charla Chiappelli and Candy McClellan

2002

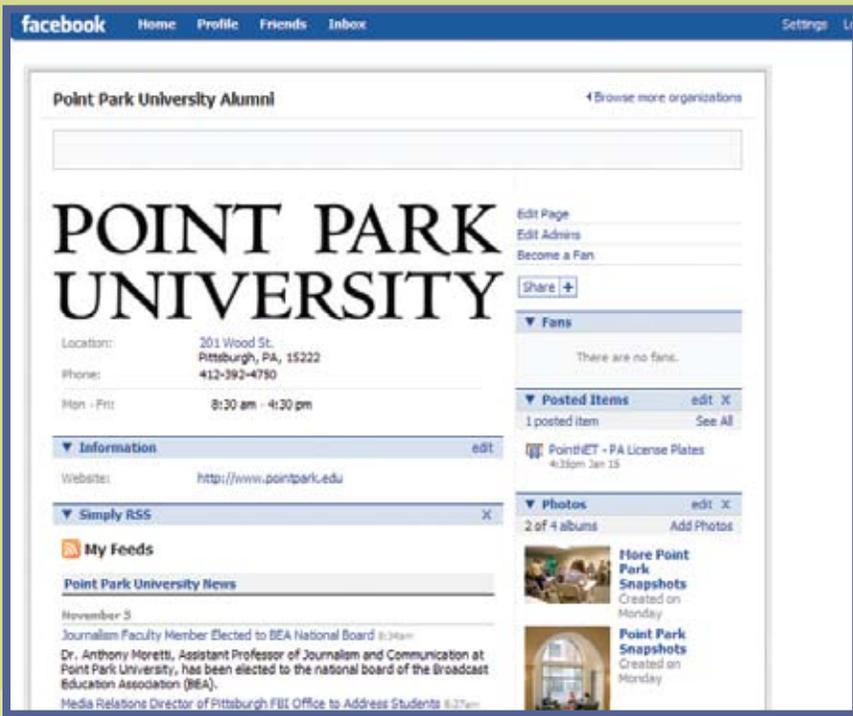
Meghan Heimbecker (COPA '02) recently performed in the musical *Quilters* with The Great Plains Theatre in Kansas and appeared on the east coast premiere of *The War Party* with Philadelphia's Interact Theatre Company. Meghan also works as a children's theater director and teaching artist for the Walnut Street Theatre where she will be directing a world premiere of the musical *The Berenstain Bears: Family Matters*. The production runs on select dates on March and April.

2007

Crystal Herbert (COPA '07) is design assistant and office manager with Abkco Music & Records, which is owned by The Rolling Stones and is located in New York City. She is assisting with photography and flash design and video for the company Web site.

2008

Two photos by **Issac Taube** (COM '08) were published in the New York Daily News on Nov. 2. The photos illustrated an article titled "What Real People in Battleground States Say About the Election."



Point Park Annual Fund Phone-A-Thon Sets a Record

In the fall of 2008, 27 students made more than 27,000 phone calls over a period of three weeks and raised a record-breaking \$70,000 in the history of Point Park's annual fund. For the first time after many years, the annual fund phone-a-thon was brought back to campus so that current students could share their Point Park experience with donors. After all, our students serve as ambassadors, representing the very heartbeat of our University.

Student callers were selected based on their performance in telephone interviews. Students were trained and reimbursed for their time and they made a big difference. Isabel Power, junior dance major, was the top caller in 2008 with more than \$10,000 raised.

Point Park on Facebook

Point Park is in the midst of the Facebook revolution and is prepared to call in the post-graduate troops. A Point Park Facebook page directed toward and designed for alumni has been in development and will be launched in early 2009. In addition to encouraging alumni to stay in touch with classmates, the page is intended to keep graduates current on University news and events and promote a more interactive connection to their alma mater.

Alison Boron (BUS '08) will manage the Facebook page. She sees the project as a chance to give back to Point Park, as well as an opportunity to create a more effective networking system for graduates. "Hopefully, this will help the University reach a different demographic of alumni," says Boron. "This will be a more accessible way for younger alumni to stay up to date and involved with Point Park."

Alumni will be encouraged to seek out and join the network and participate as much or as little as they like. Another benefit to the method of Facebook communication is the cultural popularity the site has gained since its 2004 inception. With at least nominal familiarity, new users can ease their way into the online community and explore new ways to get involved with Point Park alumni.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Send us photos showing your Point Park pride to thepoint@pointpark.edu.

Send your news to alumni@pointpark.edu.

SURVIVAL OF THE SISTERHOOD

Nostalgic Notions

Though the presence of the sorority would begin to fade only three years later, in the spring of 1971 Sigma Delta Sigma was a campus presence of unrivaled effervescence. Occupying the fifth and eighth floors of Thayer Hall, the group of undergraduates was not the largest sorority on campus, but they boasted a well known presence both on - and off-campus. The sorority, with the residual homecoming queen and mandatory 'fingertips or higher' hemlines, was also a familiar force in the cultural activism growing in



From left, top row: Vicki Harpster; middle row: Candy Steff, Robin Brandt; bottom row: Char Jones Chiappelli, Sharon Frost, Linda Kistler

the city and members became acquainted with city politicians, including former county commissioner, Tom Forrester. They worked as hall advisors and mail sorters, held fundraising shoe shines and promoted school spirit as cheerleaders. But behind the ceaseless activity and shining social presence was a bond rooted in loyalty and compassion, upon which the sisters of Sigma Delta Sigma built lasting relationships that have withstood the strains of time and distance, proving the untiring value of sisterhood nearly forty years after the dissolution of the chapter.

As the sorority song asserts, "we'll be sisters forever", joining the group would be a lifelong

commitment. Though it was outwardly described as a clique, a gang, a cult, to the sisters, Sigma Delta Sigma really was a family. Charla Jones Chiappelli, class of '73 and Sigma Delta Sigma historian, was drawn to the sorority as much by the familial feel as the social perks. "No matter who was squabbling with whom back in the dorms, out in the world you were part of the Sigma Delta Sigma family and that was a united and loyal front.

Nobody questioned the bond and that's what still brings us back together." And behind that united front, the strength of the friendships was the strongest within pledge classes.

Chiappelli's younger fifth floor crew could share the trials of the pledge period, learning from their big sisters on the eighth floor but cringing through initiation activities like cleaning an older girl's fish bowl. Together the combined pledge classes would hold informal and formal teas, fraternity picnics, scavenger hunts and other events to promote activity and teach the girls social

skills. These frequent events helped the girls network on campus, but they also taught them how to nurture their character and to find what they wanted in their friendships and in themselves.



From left, top row: Anna Marie Quigley, Annie Strishock, Carol Riden Spendiff, Kathy Walton Heimann, Vicki Harpster, Sue Rudensy, Debbie Briley; middle row: Robin Brandt, Candy Steff, Sue Heatherington, Renay Friedman, Debbie Black; bottom row: Karen Zunick, Char Jones Chiappelli, Robin Mason, Mary Beth London Gibbon, Terry Breitbord

Years after turning their tassels, the Sigmas have spread out from Pittsburgh but their friendships are firmly based in Point Park history. No matter what has happened over the years, the women have been secure in knowing who to count on in times of trouble. "Just like we were there for each other through all the heartbreaks and stresses of college," remembers

Chiappelli, "we've been there for each other through marriages, divorces, sicknesses and deaths. No matter what happens, they're there." Despite the absence of Sigma Delta Sigma at Point Park today, Chiappelli has faith that the sorority's mission will still be survived through the sisters' example. "My children have really great, unconditional friendships and I think they learned the importance of loyalty and friendship from growing up and looking at my friendships with the Sigmas."



From left: Char Jones Chiappelli, Linda Kistler, Vicki Harpster

By Kevin Taylor
Director of Athletic Communications

Pioneers share stage with NBA's elite

Photography by Lindy Dobbins



Ashleigh Hays dribbles down the sideline.



Terrica Jones gets ready to go up for a rebound.

ON Nov. 7 members of the Point Park women's basketball team had a chance to share the spotlight with Cleveland Cavaliers, one of the top teams in the National Basketball Association.

The Pioneers opened their 2008-09 season that day at Quicken Loans Arena, home of the Cavaliers. And although they lost to Northwestern Ohio, 68-66, in overtime, it was a great day for the players and fans who made the trip.

More than 100 friends, family, staff and alumni attended the Point Park women's basketball game, which was the American Midwest Conference opener for both teams. After the game, the group from Point Park enjoyed a private, all-you-can-eat buffet reception before watching LeBron James and the Cavaliers take on the Indiana Pacers.

James scored 27 points to lead the Cavs to a thrilling, 111-107 victory, and by the end of the night, everyone had a day they would remember for a long time.

"This was a great event for Point Park women's basketball and for Point Park University," said women's basketball coach Sam Kosanovich, who initiated the event. "It was very exciting

to play in an NBA arena, and hopefully everyone involved had an enjoyable time."

Kosanovich had a few remarks at the reception, which was held in a VIP room in the arena. Point Park President Paul Hennigan and Acting Dean of Student Affairs Keith Paylo had some words for the group, as well.

"On behalf of the women's basketball team and Point Park, I would like thank you for coming tonight," said Paylo. "There was a lot of hard work that went into making this a special event, and it was a great day for Point Park University."

Kosanovich, who is in his third-year as women's basketball coach, deserves the credit for setting up the game at the



Quicken Loans Arena

NBA arena, and many others across campus had a hand in making things go smoothly.

Kosanovich tweaked the women's basketball schedule to allow for the game to be played at The Q.

Originally, the game versus Northwestern Ohio was scheduled for Dec. 13 at Point Park. Kosanovich asked the Racers if they were willing to move the game ahead to Nov. 7, and Northwestern Ohio, which is located in Lima, Ohio, gladly obliged.

Tickets were sold to Point Park students and alumni at a special rate, and for the price of the ticket, fans received admission to both games, transportation and admission to the all-you-can-eat reception. Transportation was provided by a bus, which transported students to and from the game.

Point Park's hip-hop dance group, Impulse, performed at halftime, and Point Park's broadcasting students were showcased, as well, as members of the WPPJ radio and U-VIEW television crews were on hand to cover the game. In addition, Fred McLeod (COM 1974), the play-by-play voice of the Cavs, stopped by the reception to say a few words to the group.

As the women's basketball game got underway, Point Park took an early 12-3 lead on a 3-pointer by Ashleigh Hays, who scored 12 points. The Pioneers led 31-25 at halftime, and took a 47-32 lead with 13:26 to play.

But Northwestern Ohio battled back to force overtime, and Stacy Feathers led the Racers to victory with a game-high 21 points.

Terrica Jones scored 12 points for the Pioneers while Ashley Henderson added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Emily Anderson chipped in 10 points and four steals.



Brittney Wilson takes a 3-pointer.

FALLSPORTSROUNDUP

Cross Country

The women's cross country season was highlighted by a third-place finish at the Pitt-Greensburg Invitational Oct. 4. Lindsay Dill, who placed ninth, led the women's team in six of seven races. Reuben Rono, a native of Kenya, took third place Oct. 4 and paced the men's team in six of seven meets.

Volleyball

The volleyball team (19-18) posted a winning record for the second straight year and missed qualifying for a playoff spot in a re-aligned AMC conference by one game. Ashley Zietak was named to the All-AMC third team, and Megan Lamens was an honorable-mention choice.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team won four of its first six games and featured two record-setting players. Senior goalkeeper Emily Tomalewski finished her career as Point Park's all-time leader in wins and saves while junior Angela Olivieri is the school's all-time leader in points and goals.

Men's Soccer

Seniors Steve Fabian and Dustin Hess earned All-AMC honorable mention honors for the Pioneers. Fabian ranked third in the NAIA in saves per game, and Hess was second on the team with 11 points. The Pioneers won three of five games at the end of the year, including a victory on senior day.

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