

THE POINT

FALL 2022

A PUBLICATION OF POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

WE'RE BACK!



From the President

Welcome back! I mean this on so many levels.

Welcome back to an open campus! We have students bustling about, teams competing in athletic events, and faculty, staff, and students gathering in person to share ideas, a meal, or just a cup of coffee. It's great to be back on campus together. We Pioneers are resilient!

Welcome back, as well, to The Point. We put our alumni magazine on hiatus at the start of the pandemic, but we have brought it back to help alumni stay current on all things Point Park University. We plan to engage our alumni through events and other opportunities, many of which will be advertised and reported in this publication, along with stories about our inspirational students, faculty, and alumni.

While some things changed during the pandemic, our devotion and dedication to our students, their well-being, and their careers have never wavered. We are even more resolute about ensuring our students receive the best education and experience at Point Park University.

We, like most institutions of higher learning, did not come out of the pandemic unscathed. Enrollment is down. As of January, more



We offer students an urban environment rich with internships and outside-the-classroom experiences that ensure graduates are successful.

than one million fewer students are in college across the country. We know that a decrease in college-educated students will have a tremendous impact on the

economy, innovation, and research, both regionally and nationally. Universities are an economic catalyst and are essential to the revitalization of America.

Point Park University, however, is strategically situated to grow its enrollment. We offer students an urban environment rich with internships and outside-the-classroom experiences that ensure graduates are successful.

This is a perfect time for Point Park to reimagine its place in the Downtown Pittsburgh ecosystem. The City of Pittsburgh, because of Covid-19 and a loss of employees working in the Central Business District, has embarked on a plan to become a living-working community, with a focus on growing its number of Downtown residents.

The university will partner with the city, its businesses, and its residents to create a vibrant environment of education, innovation, business incubation and acceleration, and public-private partnership. Point Park will not only provide educated students to a workforce in need of employees but develop a broader relationship with the community, becoming a hub for the arts and educational components our new Downtown will need.

Point Park's development of these relationships, programs and projects will help to rebuild a post-Covid campus. We are excited about the future of Point Park University. We are working on a new strategic plan, upgrading our facilities, and developing new curriculum that will attract the next generation of students. It will be a journey, and we hope that you will come along with us.

We. Are. Back!

NONDISCRIMINATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES:

This policy affirms Point Park University's commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and the pursuit of diversity. Point Park University does not discriminate on the basis of: sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, age (40 years and over), ancestry, individuals with disabilities, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, height, weight, genetic information, marital status, caregiver status or familial status, in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities or with respect to employment or admission to the University's educational programs and activities.

This policy is in accord with local, state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Pittsburgh Human Relations Act. Inquiries regarding these regulations and policies, or complaints, should be referred to Point Park's vice president of human resources, phone number 412-392-3952. Complaints of discrimination can be filed via the Incident Reporting Form online at PointPark.edu/IncidentReport; and will be processed by the University Office of Equity and Inclusion according to Point Park's policy on discrimination and harassment. Complaints may also be emailed to equity@pointpark.edu

Inquiries regarding Title IX and the Title IX regulations should also be referred to the University's Title IX coordinator. The Title IX coordinator, Vanessa Love, may be reached at vlove@pointpark.edu, 412-392-3980 or 201 Wood Street, Student Center, Room 104D, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A Title IX incident report can be filed via the Incident Reporting Form online at PointPark.edu/IncidentReport

TALK TO US

The Point wants to hear from you. Send your comments and suggestions to alumni@pointpark.edu or drop us a note at:

Point Park University
Office of University Advancement
201 Wood St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

ON THE COVER

Students gathered during Move-In Week at Village Park to welcome students back to campus for the 2022-23 year.

Contents



2 CAMPUS NEWS

The Pittsburgh Playhouse 2022-2023 Season is One to Celebrate

3 Point Park Hires School of Arts & Sciences Dean, New Administrative Staff

4 Center for Media Innovation to Move Location and Build Media Hub

5 Pioneering Former President Created Legacy for Point Park

6 ATHLETICS

Back to Back: Point Park University Athletics Claims Second Straight RSC Commissioner's All-Sports Cup

8 DONORS & SCHOLARS

Scholarships Provide Students with Support, Donors with Satisfaction

9 Donor-Funded Scholarships at Point Park University

10 ALUMNI CORNER

Alumni Events

13 Match Your Gift 1:1 During November 16 Point Park Day of Giving

14 Recent Grad Nominated for Tony

15 Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters '22

16 STUDENTS

Student-led Point Park Study Tackles Bathroom Access in Pittsburgh

18 Featured Interns

20 Move-In Week

Point Park Students Prove the Effectiveness of 'Renegade' During Steelers Home Games



EVENTS | ADMINISTRATION | CAMPUS | IN MEMORIAM

Campus News

EVENTS The Pittsburgh Playhouse 2022-2023 Season is One to Celebrate

The 2022-2023 season of the Pittsburgh Playhouse is one of the most robust and innovative in Playhouse history, making full use of the Playhouse's unique and flexible performance spaces, as well as its beautiful indoor theaters.

"We wanted to pack this season to the brim with innovative, entertaining and thought-provoking cultural events that reflect our academic mission and role as a nexus of culture and entertainment in the region," said Garfield Lemonius, artistic director of the Pittsburgh Playhouse and dean of the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University.

The official 2022-2023 Pittsburgh Playhouse season began in September with performances by Urban Bush Women, the groundbreaking performance ensemble with an educational arm based in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Urban Bush Women will be followed by Dallas Black Dance Theatre in residency this November and then *Terri Lyne Carrington and Social Science*, co-produced with MCG Jazz, in the spring.

These outstanding performers are a centerpiece of the Playhouse's season, under the theme of "Shaping the Arts: Black Femme Artists and Creators." They are designed to shine a light on Black women who are creative trailblazers in their fields of performance, dance, and music.

Next up, the eagerly awaited slate of plays and musicals featuring the exceptionally talented students from the University's Conservatory of Performing

Arts (COPA). This season's productions include *Sondheim on Sondheim, Kentucky* by Leah Nanako Winkler; Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*; Disney's *Newsies*; *Men on Boats* by Jaclyn Backhaus; and *Sense and Sensibility* by Kate Hamill.

For fans of dance and choreography, performances this season feature works by local talent Staycee Pearl, world-renowned Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and living legend Twyla Tharp, as well as the cutting-edge talent

of the students' original choreography.

Rounding out theatre and dance events, the Pittsburgh Playhouse will present multimedia guest lectures throughout the season, including presentations from the *National Geographic Live Speaker Series*.

In October, Alicia Odewale discussed "Greenwood: A Century of Resilience." A native of Tulsa, Okla., Odewale uncovers stories of resilience in the hundred years since the attack on Black Wall Street in the city's historic Greenwood district.

Other guests include world traveling photographers Bryan Smith and Ami Vitale, also in the National Geographic Live Speaker Series, as well as Jason Riley, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and columnist for the Wall Street Journal. ●

**PITTSBURGH
PLAYHOUSE**
POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

**View this season's lineup
and order tickets at**

<https://playhouse.pointpark.edu/>

ADMINISTRATION

Point Park Hires School of Arts & Sciences Dean, New Administrative Staff

After the completion of a nationwide search process, Josie Brown, Ph.D., was named Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Point Park University.

Brown came to Point Park from Western New England University, where she was serving as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and director of Study Abroad. She officially started at Point Park in July.

“Dr. Brown brings a well-earned reputation as a gifted scholar of Afro-diaspora literature and a talented arts and sciences administrator to both Point Park and the city of Pittsburgh,” said Michael Soto, provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs. “Our entire University community stands to benefit enormously from her talent and creativity.”

Brown, who has nearly 20 years of experience teaching and leading in higher education, also served for seven years as assistant dean of WNEU’s College of Arts and Sciences. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Bates College; a master’s degree from Queens College, The City University of New York; and a Ph.D. from the University of New York at Stony Brook.

It was the student-focused curriculum and an emphasis on internships and co-op opportunities at Point Park that made the opportunity an intriguing one, Brown said.

“Giving students access to real-world opportunities is critical for developing future workers, graduate students and citizens who can contribute in positive ways to our local, national and global environment,” she said. “I am excited for the opportunity to build on this foundation and locate Arts and Sciences at the center of the University’s mission. It is in Arts and Sciences where students learn the transferable skills that enable them to be lifelong learners.”



President Don Green believes deans are a critical part of building a strong foundation as Point Park develops its new five-year strategic plan.

“The hiring of Dr. Brown brings to completion the reshaping of Point Park’s academic leadership,” he said. “With a dean now established in each of our schools, we can accelerate plans to develop a new round of highly productive and innovative degree programs to ensure a long and prosperous future. Through my conversations with Dr. Brown, I believe she will play an important role in this work, and I’m excited to have her here.” ●

New Executive Team Members

Point Park also made two new additions to its executive team over the summer, naming Julie Cryser its vice president for University Advancement, and hiring Andrew Hughey as senior vice president and general counsel.



Cryser comes to Point Park from Pierpont Community & Technical College, where she was vice president for Institutional Advancement and foundation director. Prior to that, she served as president of the Fairmont State University Foundation and nearly 20 years in several advancement and development roles at West Virginia University, including assistant dean for development at WVU’s largest college. Cryser has raised nearly \$45 million over her development career.

Cryser leads a newly created Advancement Division that will include the offices of Alumni Engagement, Government Relations, Public Relations and Foundation and Corporate Relations. The division also will coordinate the fundraising activities of Athletics, the Center for Media Innovation and the Pittsburgh Playhouse, as well as academic program fundraising in conjunction with the academic deans.



Hughey comes to Point Park from Ohio Northern University, where he has been serving as the school’s vice president and general counsel. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the Duquesne University School of Law.

“For the last five years, Point Park has relied on external legal counsel. We felt it was important to have guidance and representation from a general counsel who is on campus, a member of the leadership team and fully immersed in our operations, goals and plans,” Green said. “Andrew’s wealth of knowledge and experience in diversity, equity and inclusion, on top of his immense legal expertise, made him the perfect choice for us.”

CAMPUS
**Center for Media
Innovation to Move
Location and Build
Media Hub**

With innovation in its name, the Center for Media Innovation at Point Park University always has embraced change. The 2022-2023 academic year will truly put this idea to the test.

The CMI has operated at the corner of Wood Street and Third Avenue since opening in 2016, leasing the space from YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh. New owners plan to renovate the building for City Club Apartments and construct 20 stories of new apartment housing on top of the current structure.

Rather than trying to remain open through the construction, the Center will

be moving into the University-owned West Penn Building at the corner of Wood Street and Fort Pitt Boulevard. The Allegheny Foundation, which provided startup funding for the CMI, awarded Point Park a \$1.5 million grant to facilitate the move.

The new space will evoke the CMI's founding spirit of cutting-edge technology and community engagement with large windows revealing a corner studio looking south toward Mt. Washington and Parkway East. The space will share the lobby with the Rowland School of Business's Michael P. Pitterich Sales and Innovation Center and sits across the street from the offices of The Globe and WPPJ.

"In its new location, the CMI will continue to have a high-profile presence and serve as a gateway that welcomes visitors to Point Park's Downtown campus," said Andrew Conte, Ph.D., director of the CMI. "The Center's work has grown

well beyond its physical location to include many projects that extend into the community, and that work will continue to grow."

At the same time, the CMI plans to launch a collocated workspace for journalists called the Pittsburgh Downtown Media Hub. With the support of The Benter Foundation, the CMI will be leasing workspace to local news organizations as they return to offices after the pandemic. The Media Hub will sit on the 10th floor of the Benedum-Trees Building at 223 Fourth Ave.

Founding tenants for the Media Hub are City Cast Pittsburgh, The Incline, the Pittsburgh Independent, Next Pittsburgh, Storyburgh and the Pittsburgh Women's Press Club. In addition to private offices, the space will have cubicles that can be rented by the day and shared resources such as a podcast studio, conference room, work lounge and kitchen.

"We are grateful that The Benter Foundation and Bill Benter, himself, reached out to the CMI for help when they were seeking to bring people back into Pittsburgh's downtown offices after the pandemic," Conte said. "Their generous contributions will support local journalism and underscore the CMI's work to encourage news outlets to help each other while remaining editorially competitive."

One of the CMI's ongoing programs, the Pittsburgh Media Partnership, brings together more than 20 local news outlets for collaborative reporting, shared infrastructure, networking, internships and more. The Partnership employed 13 journalism interns during the summer of 2022, and they generated more than 230 pieces of content for local news outlets. That program receives support from both The Heinz Endowments and the Henry L. Hillman Foundation. ●



John Clayton, a Braddock native and football writer and reporter who rose to fame with ESPN, speaks to students during a 2018 visit to campus in the TV studio at the Center for Media Innovation.

Below: People stop on Wood Street to watch election night coverage playing on the television screens at the Center for Media Innovation. Bottom: John Allison, director of content for Trib Total Media, speaks to fellow members of the Pittsburgh Media Partnership in the classroom space at the Center for Media Innovation.





Katherine Henderson speaks to students during Point Park University's 2019 Commencement, where she was presented with an honorary degree. Photo by John Altdorfer

“Katherine was dedicated to realizing the dream of a vibrant central business district that would benefit those who work and study in Downtown Pittsburgh. She was tenacious.” Mariann Geyer

through the beginnings of a campus expansion that would come fully into fruition under her successor, Dr. Paul Hennigan.

“Kathie came up through the academic route, so she was very in tune with all the academic ideals, but she also understood the need for Point Park to embrace the community, which is something it had not done,” Hennigan said.

Henderson believed to grow as an urban university, Point Park needed to create more academic programs, including ones that were adult friendly. Hennigan came on board in 2000 as vice president of Operations and Finances as Henderson was developing her new path for Point Park.

“I walked through and toured the entire facility – every staircase, every hallway, every office,” Hennigan said. “What I noticed was that the place was not that clean and not very aesthetically appealing. I mentioned that to Kathie and she said, ‘Clean it up!’ We had a great working relationship because she empowered me and let me do my job with little to no boundaries. She wanted to grow Point Park.”

While president of Point Park, Henderson also served as chair of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, where she worked with

Mariann Geyer, who at the time was executive director and would later work with Hennigan at Point Park as vice president of External Relations. Geyer said Henderson’s vision for the future included more than Point Park.

“Katherine was dedicated to realizing the dream of a vibrant central business district that would benefit those who work and study in Downtown Pittsburgh,” she said. “She was tenacious, and she was always a lady.”

Golonski and Hennigan both noted that Henderson was a trailblazer because she was, at the time, one of the few female executives in the Pittsburgh region.

“She was coming into a man’s world and she just kind of made it happen,” Golonski said.

Henderson is survived by Tracy, her husband and partner of 63 years, as well as her two children, Ellen and Geoffrey, and her beloved grandson, Andrew.

Geyer noted that Tracy Henderson also was a beloved and important figure in the Point Park community, something Golonski echoed.

“Tracy is a true gentleman. He loved his wife. Whatever she did and wherever she was, he was right by her side,” Golonski said. “He was there for everything. He misses her dearly.” ●

IN MEMORIAM

Pioneering Former President Created Legacy for Point Park

When Dr. Katherine Usher Henderson arrived in 1997 as Point Park College’s sixth president, the University was struggling.

In the period prior to her arrival, the school suffered from increasing debt and was led by a retired professor who agreed to take the position of president on an interim basis.

“With the school being in such financial distress, there wasn’t anybody who wanted to take on the job,” said Tom Golonski, chairman of the Board of Trustees at the time, a position he held for 13 years. “When I interviewed Katherine the first time, I was impressed by her candor, and she admitted freely this was a challenge different from anything she ever faced.”

Henderson, who died on July 26 at the age of 89, ultimately agreed to take the position, leading Point Park on a path toward debt reduction and to university status, which it ultimately was granted in October 2003. She also guided the school



< INDOOR TRACK
Conference
Champions



BASEBALL
Conference
Runner-Up

17 of 18 teams
with a team GPA
of 3.0+



OUTDOOR TRACK
Conference
Champions



< WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
Conference
Runner-Up



BY KEVIN TAYLOR, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletics

BACK TO BACK: Point Park University Athletics Claims Second Straight RSC Commissioner's All-Sports Cup

For those in college athletics, the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years were anything

but normal. The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic brought things to a halt in spring 2020, and its impact was felt for the next two academic years.

Amid the new challenges brought on by COVID-19, one thing remained consistent with the past: Point Park University athletics was at the top of the River States Conference.

The Pioneers' athletic department claimed the RSC

Commissioner's All-Sports Cup in back-to-back years of 2020-21 and 2021-22. This past year's victory marked the fifth time in the 10 years since joining the conference that the Pioneers claimed the cup.

The RSC All-Sports Cup is annually presented to the school with the best combined finish in the conference's championship sports. The RSC features 13 schools in

Pioneer athletes once again claim the RSC Commissioner's All-Sports Cup.

five states – Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Kentucky.

"Winning the River States Conference Commissioner's All-Sports Cup for the second year in a row is a testament to the work ethic of our student-athletes, coaches, staff as well as the support of our administration," said John Ashaolu, director of Athletics.

"The profile and competitive level of the RSC continues to grow, which makes winning the All-Sports Cup in consecutive years a great accomplishment. We will use this accomplishment as a springboard into the 2022-23 year with a goal of winning the award for a third consecutive year."





SOFTBALL
RSC East Division
3rd Place

**119 Scholar
Athletes with a
3.25+ GPA**

VOLLEYBALL
Conference
4th Place Finish



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
Conference
4th Place Finish



COMPETITIVE DANCE
NAIA Nationals
Appearance

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Conference
4th Place Finish



The 2021-22 victory was a narrow win by virtue of a tiebreaker over University of Rio Grande (Ohio). Point Park's four conference championships in men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field were the deciding factor.

Point Park joined the conference in 2012-13 when it was known as the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Pioneers claimed the all-sports cup in their first year of 2012-13 and then again in 2014-15 and 2015-16 before the recent back to back titles.

The fall of 2020 was Point Park's first experience with returning to athletics since the arrival of COVID-19. With many leagues and organizations still shut down, the NAIA and the RSC

ventured back into play with a focus on doing so in the safest way possible. The Point Park administration, coaches, and student-athletes navigated a year that was unlike any they had experienced.

"Our student-athletes once again showed their resiliency and withstood and adapted to all the challenges and changes that competing during the pandemic presented," Ashaolu said at the time. "The award illustrates the upward momentum and competitive success of our entire athletic department, and we look to continue to build upon that in the years to come."

Continuing the momentum was exactly what the Pioneers did. The 2021-22 school year featured continued challenges brought on by COVID.

With determination and attention to detail, another school year was successfully navigated with Point Park student-athletes pursuing their athletic and academic aspirations.

When the 2021-22 school year was complete, the Pioneers had achieved a clean sweep of the RSC in indoor and outdoor track and field with four conference titles. Under first-year head coach Tim Creamer, those programs powered the Pioneers to victory.

The Pioneers were also RSC runner-up in baseball and women's cross country. Other top finishes were fourth place in women's soccer, volleyball and men's cross country. The softball team was also a postseason qualifier, finishing third in the RSC East Division. It was also

a big year for the competitive dance team with another appearance at NAIA nationals.

This past school year was also another successful one academically for the Pioneers. Point Park had 17 of its 18 varsity sports teams with a team GPA of 3.0 or higher and had a department-wide GPA average of 3.25 across all teams. There were also 119 individuals who earned RSC Scholar-Athlete status with a 3.25 GPA or higher.

"We collectively strive to build a championship culture, and that is derived by winning each day in the classroom and on the competition field," Ashaolu said. "Winning the All-Sports Cup and completing another academic year with an average department GPA of over 3.25 is a product of that culture." ●

Donors & Scholars

DONOR PROFILE Scholarships Provide Students with Support, Donors with Satisfaction

When the COVID pandemic started shutting everything down in the spring of 2020, it created for many an unprecedented amount of uncertainty. Tatyana Dumova, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Communication, started thinking about a legacy.

"I thought what – if the worst is to come – would I leave behind?" she said.

Her thoughts turned to a scholarship she earned that helped her while attending Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

"So, I decided to establish an endowed scholarship myself to pass those uplifting feelings down the river of time," Dumova said.

Then-President Paul Hennigan encouraged her to move forward on it, and the scholarship was established in 2020 for multimedia students in the School of Communication. Due to many qualifying submissions, two monetary awards were granted

that were split between three winning students.

Dumova was keenly aware that most academic scholarships are meant for top students, but it was important to her that there be a lower entrance barrier and a focus on overcoming adversity.

"Sometimes life creates an uneven playing field and bright young people who come from vulnerable populations may be at a disadvantage," she said. "Encouragement means a lot to people. It meant a lot to me. I wanted to make sure there was a scholarship available to students who overcome adversity while pursuing their studies."

The scholarship was well-received by faculty and students, so Dumova decided to make it available to all Point Park students – not just those in communication. President

Don Green was supportive of that idea, and the scholarship expanded in time for the Fall 2022 semester.

The scholarship recipient for this year is Kaleb "Ka" Thomas, a St. Louis native majoring in dance with a concentration in Jazz, as well as a minor in psychology. They are targeting a 2023 graduation.

"This scholarship means the world to me because I am a first-generation college student," they said.

Thomas' mother worked hard to make sure both of her children would be able to attend college.

"Dance saved my life because it showed me how I could alleviate the stress of being an underprivileged black male and having many obstacles and stereotypes to conquer," they said.

"Ultimately, this scholarship

"Encouragement means a lot to people. I wanted to make sure there was a scholarship available to students who overcome adversity while pursuing their studies."

Prof. Tatyana Dumova



Professor Tatyana Dumova (left) and scholarship recipient Kaleb "Ka" Thomas (right)

helps me solidify my continued ability to study dance and learn other essential tools that will help jumpstart my career outside of academia."

For Dumova, Thomas is exactly the kind of student she hoped the scholarship would support.

"I am touched by Ka's story and their ability to manage



that kind of workload on the way to graduation. What an impressive effort,” Dumova said. “I would encourage my colleagues to establish an endowed scholarship if they are in a position to do so. It’s a rewarding feeling to know you are playing a small part in building a student’s successful future.” ●

SCHOLARSHIPS

Donor-Funded Scholarships at Point Park University

Alumni Association Scholarship*	First National Bank Scholarship	Sam Miller Scholarship*
Ametek Scholarship	Froehlich/Roteman Scholarship*	Non-Traditional Student Scholarship*
Roy F. Bates Sr. Enhancement Fund*	Addison Gibson Foundation Scholarships	Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Scholarships
Andrew Bernhard Memorial Scholarship*	Thomas W. Golonski Family Undergraduate Scholarship*	Post-Gazette Scholarship*
Bocchi Family Student Emergency Fund*	Robert F. Gonda Engineering Student Need-Based Fund*	Dr. Charles Quillin Scholarship*
Jon A. and Donna L. Boscia Scholarship*	Dolores Haberle Scholarship*	Richard Rauh Theatre Award*
Alfred Brooks Scholarship*	Karen L. Haberle Endowed Scholarship*	Ardelle Vivien Robinson Memorial Scholarship
Chester Brown Scholarship*	William Randolph Hearst Foundation Scholarship for Low-Income Students*	William Schmid Jr. Scholarship*
C.A.V.A Leadership Scholarship	Paul & Colleen Hennigan Scholarship*	Vernon Schnare Scholarship*
Paul S. and Gertrude F. Caplan COPA Scholarship*	Cecia Ohringer Hess Memorial Scholarship Fund*	J. Matthew Simon Scholarship*
Dr. Rosemarie E. Cibik Scholarship*	John V. Hopkins Alumni Scholarship*	Trisha Simmons COPA Scholarship*
Myron Cope Scholarship for Journalism and Mass Communication*	Huth Technologies Scholarship*	Frank Sinatra Memorial Scholarship*
Don Craig Performing Arts Scholarship*	Vincent LaBarbera Scholarship*	Kathleen Bland Smith Memorial Graduate Scholarship*
Deloitte Academic Enhancement Fund*	Phil Malle'13 Memorial Scholarship	Richard P. Simmons Family Foundation Scholarship*
Tatyana Dumova Scholarship*	MARC USA Graduate Scholarship	Margy Snyder Memorial Scholarship*
Anthony J. Dyda Sr. Memorial Scholarship*	George Marin Information Technology and Business Scholarship*	Starmakers: Rising Star Award*
Eberly Family Scholarship*	Gracie Miller Scholarship*	Steven B. Stein Scholarship*
Loti G. Falk Dance Scholarship*	Norma Miller Scholarship*	Ron Tassone Scholarship*
Fallon Memorial Travel Scholarships		Tomayko Scholarships
		William J. Thomas Scholarship*
		Richard B. Tucker Scholarship*
		Milton A. Washington Scholarship*
		Nancy and Milton Washington Scholarship*

**Those marked with an asterisk are endowed funds*

If you would like more information on developing a scholarship for Point Park students, please email Julie Cryser, vice president for the Office of University Advancement, at jcryser@pointpark.edu or call 412-392-6176.

Alumni Corner

ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni from across the region participated in the Point Park Night at the Pirates. Throwing out the first pitch was Dave Duncan, a Point Park University Trustee and Point Park Athletics Hall of Fame inductee from the class of 1979. Alumni also participated in a Harry Potter-themed ice cream social, "Let the Magic Begin," (page 12) to welcome back students to campus in early September.

Dave Duncan pitched to his son, Nate. Point Park's Competitive Cheer and Dance teams welcomed guests.





Alumni from across the region gathered for Point Park Night at the Pirates, which featured Black Diamond II, Point Park's mascot, as well as the Competitive Cheer and Dance teams who welcomed attendees.



Alumni participated in a Harry Potter-themed ice cream social, "Let the Magic Begin," to welcome students back to campus.



Alumni ... Update your information!

Take a moment to complete the form below, then drop it in the mail to:
Point Park University, Office of University Advancement, 201 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.
Or find this form online at <https://www.pointpark.edu/alumni/updateyourcontactinfo/index>

FIRST NAME		LAST NAME	
GRAD YEAR(S)		PROGRAM(S)/ DEGREE(S)	
NAME WHILE AT PPU (IF DIFFERENT)			
EMPLOYER		JOB TITLE	
ADDRESS 1		ADDRESS 2	
CITY		STATE	
ZIP		COUNTRY	
PHONE #		EMAIL	
<p>HAVE ANY EXCITING UPDATES TO SHARE WITH US? PLEASE SHARE! (Ex: new job, new family member, educational milestone, bought a house, moved, etc.)</p>			



DAY OF GIVING

Match Your Gift 1:1 During November 16 Point Park Day of Giving

One day to show your support. One goal of securing 150 donors. One team working to help Point Park University students and create a margin of excellence that sets us apart from other institutions. That's what the first Point Park Day of Giving is all about.

"The Point Park Day of Giving is a 24-hour opportunity to inspire alumni, students, staff, faculty, donors, parents, and friends to support the University where they most wish to see an impact," said Julie R. Cryser, vice president for the Office of University Advancement. "It's

a fun and competitive way to entice our friends to support scholarships and areas of greatest need, while in many cases having a one-to-one match to make your donation go further."

So far, more than \$40,000 in matches and challenges have been raised, which donors can take advantage of on November 16, 2022, starting at midnight. The once-a-year-shot at doubling a gift to the University will end at 11:59 that night. Alumni, donors, and friends can log into pointpark.edu/giveday to access the giving page and also watch a leaderboard to see which scholarship fund, school or athletic team is leading the fundraising efforts.

Alumni are encouraged to become Advocates and challenge their friends and fellow alumni to give. Participants can sign up to become an advocate



at any time at pointpark.edu/giveday. These giving opportunities allow donors to double their gift in areas including scholarships, schools, and athletic teams.

"For athletic teams, especially, giving days bring out the competition," Cryser

said. "It's exciting for the teams to build a strategy to try to capture as many of the matching funds as possible and then to execute that plan. In the case of giving days, the matches and challenges are the metaphorical ball that each team can run with." ●



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Recent Grad
Nominated for Tony

It's been a fast rise to stardom for Jaquel Spivey, who graduated from Point Park University in 2021, and found himself nominated for Best Actor in a Musical at the

75th annual Tony Awards just over one year later.

Upon graduating cum laude with a BFA in musical theatre, Spivey auditioned for and won the lead role of Usher in Michael R. Jackson's *A Strange Loop*, which opened on Broadway in April 2022. It would go on to become a Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner and was nominated for 11 Tonys, winning for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical.

A Strange Loop tells the story of Usher, a young

artist grappling with desires, identity and instincts he both loves and loathes. Hell-bent on breaking free of his own self-perception, Usher wrestles with the thoughts in his head, which are brought to life on stage by a hilarious, straight-shooting ensemble.

Zeva Barzell, professor and director of musical theatre, and Rich Keitel, professor of theatre, have remained close with Spivey and are both thrilled and not surprised at his immediate success.

"I know I speak for many of us when I say how proud and happy we are for him," Barzell said. "I remember very clearly when Jaquel auditioned for our program. We both knew immediately it was a good fit."

Keitel also remembers Spivey as a wonderful student and great performer.

"He was a role model for my improv class when he was a senior and there were numerous freshmen in the class," Keitel said. "I was





Jaquel Spivey, left, performs in "Sunday in the Park with George" in 2019 in the PNC Theatre of the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Photo by John Altdorfer

not surprised to see Jaquel reach such monumental heights so quickly because he is so talented."

Even though Spivey's talent was clear, Barzell noted that the business of theatre is fickle and unpredictable, so she's never certain what will happen with the many talented students who train in the Conservatory of Performing Arts.

"When the stars align and the opportunity presents itself, one has to be ready," she said. "Jaquel was ready! I had no doubt he would have a good career, but I couldn't be happier that it happened almost as soon as he stepped out of the door here."

A Strange Loop is continuing its run on Broadway with Spivey performing the role of Usher seven to eight times a week, and Keitel has traveled to New York City to see the show.

"Jaquel is proof of the adage that good things happen to good people," he said. ●

Below: Professor Rich Keitel, left, takes a photo with Jaquel Spivey, while visiting New York City to watch Spivey perform in "A Strange Loop."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters '22



Acetone Wishes and Plexiglass Dreams, winner of the prestigious 2022 Terrence McNally Award in playwriting, is centered around the character Celina, a Korean/Asian American, who has moved home to Philadelphia's Koreatown to take over the neighborhood beauty salon.

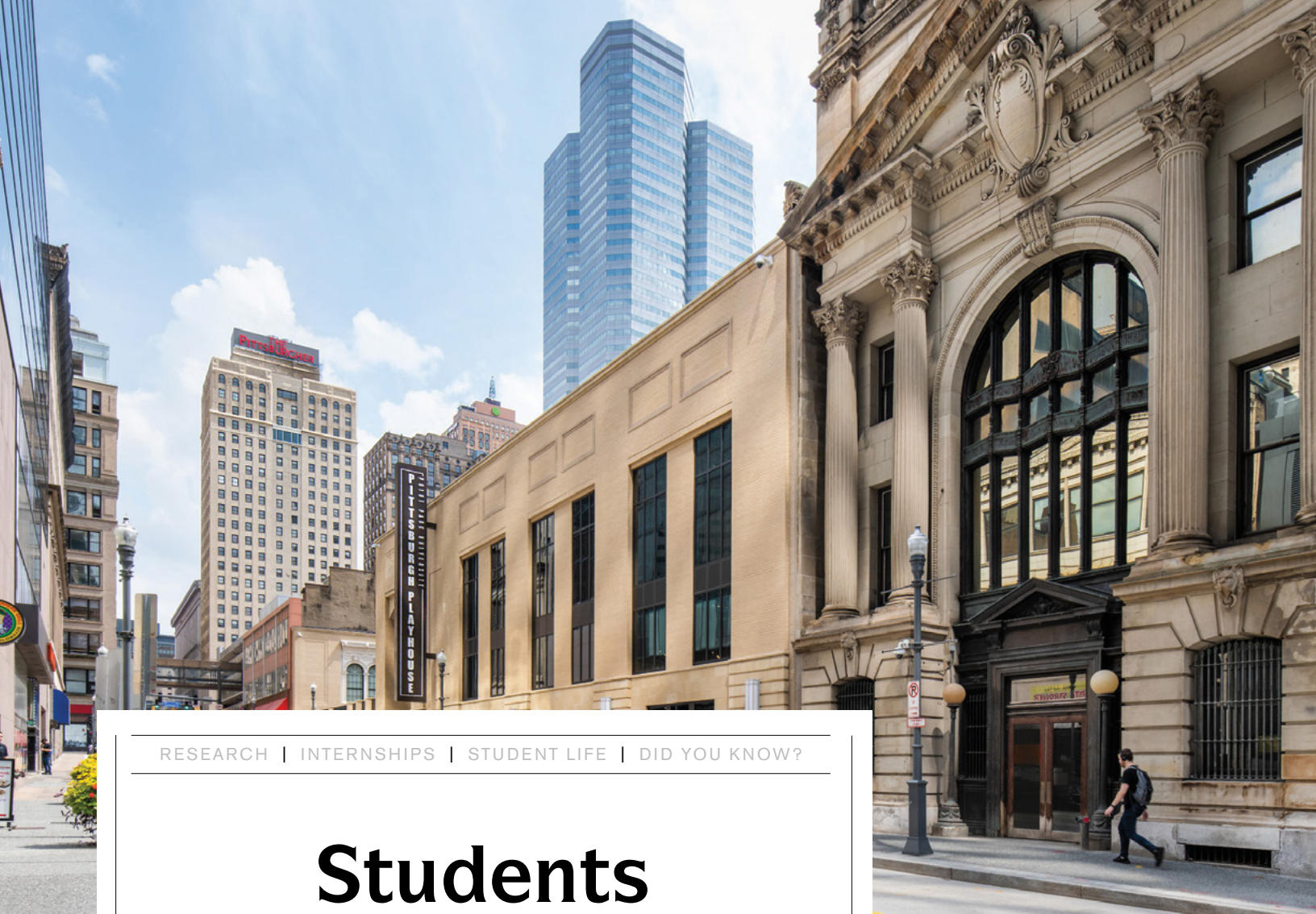
For playwright Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters Asian American and Pacific communities were not well-represents in the arts and, said Walters, "I got tired of waiting for opportunities for the Asian American and Pacific community and so I began to write. I wrote for my friends' strengths, for my mother's stories to live on and for a community that is often left voiceless. I wanted that voice to be loud and unapologetically so," she explained. Walters received her Master of Fine

Arts in the screenwriting and playwriting program at Point Park University, graduating in 2022. In addition to playwriting, Walters is also a Barrymore-nominated actor and teaching artist currently based in Philadelphia. She is an alum of InterAct Theatre Core Playwright, a current American Theatre Group PlayLab artist, and serves as the Lead Artist on the Philly Asian Performing Artists' Playwrights Project. Her play *Half of Chopsticks* was a finalist for both the 2021 Bay Area Playwrights Festival and Seven Devils New Plays Conference and received a stage reading at the inaugural Boise Contemporary Theatre BIPOC Playwrights Festival.

"Stephanie came into our program as an amazing writer with a distinctive voice. The way she speaks to her audience is truly unique and special. Our goal was simply to help her hone the gifts she already had," said Matt Pelfrey, M.F.A. Program Director, Cinema Arts Department at Point Park University. ●

"I got tired of waiting for opportunities for the Asian American and Pacific community and so I began to write. I wrote for my friends' strengths, for my mother's stories to live on and for a community that is often left voiceless."

Stephanie Kyung Sun Walters



RESEARCH | INTERNSHIPS | STUDENT LIFE | DID YOU KNOW?

Students

RESEARCH

Student-led Point Park Study Tackles Bathroom Access in Pittsburgh

When Ashley Malachi saw the course description for “Public Private Community Action Research,” she was immediately drawn to the prospect of making a difference through a real-world research project.

Among its goals, Point Park University’s Ph.D. in Community Engagement program seeks to prepare leaders for outreach and partnership work in civic, business and community organizations, and the

course’s cornerstone project embodied that mission.

Ten students spent a semester researching the lack of access to public restrooms in the Golden Triangle region of Downtown Pittsburgh, presenting a robust report, “Where Can We Go?,” to the Building Owners and Managers Association of Pittsburgh (BOMA) that outlined potential solutions and benefits of installing public restrooms throughout the heart of the city. BOMA, the City of Pittsburgh and

the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) are now engaging stakeholders for implementation.

“I am grateful for this experience and hope that I can do more to continue to help move the Golden Triangle community in the right direction in terms of basic needs, inclusivity and community engagement,” Malachi said. “Being able to engage in the community during my time at Point Park so far has shown me that I am right where I need to be.”

BOMA and its executive director, Amanda Schaub, recently presented their proposed solutions, based on the research project, at a public meeting in the PNC Theatre at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Those proposals include:

- Immediately renovate and/or reopen existing facilities in the city parking garages and other public spaces.

- Install high-end, semi-permanent or permanent restroom facilities throughout the city to complement the footprint of existing facilities.
- Use a way-finding system and installed signage to help people find the restrooms.
- Develop a long-term maintenance plan to keep the facilities clean and utilized.

BOMA hopes to work with the PDP, the city and others to raise necessary funds to make these proposals happen.

In the Q&A below, learn more about the project from Malachi, student Judy Riegelneegg, and Heather Starr Fiedler, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Community Engagement & Leadership.

Describe the work that went into completing this study.

Malachi: The process was insightful and engaging. We worked as a class on compiling actionable information, and we had to provide all the relevant qualitative and quantitative secondary research available to us and provide our own primary research. The secondary research aspect of the project was very individualized for each student so that we could get an in-depth understanding of what kind of information was already out there. Then we worked together on the primary research, conducting a focus group interview with stakeholders, intercept interviews with individuals in the community and one-on-one interviews with other stakeholders. The data we collected informed our report, and our eyes were opened to an issue that exists here in Pittsburgh and beyond.

What aspects of the study did you enjoy most?

Malachi: I most enjoyed conducting the intercept interviews. Being able to speak with different people about an issue that affects us all helped to bring insights that we may not have considered otherwise. I learned that even though we are all affected by the lack of public



restrooms available, we are all affected in different ways, and that matters as well.

What was something that surprised you about this experience?

Fiedler: I was surprised that so many students signed up to take a summer class focused on studying restrooms. It's not exactly a fun topic, but everyone was so incredibly invested. I was also surprised just to hear how much of a conversation-starter this was. No matter who we talked to, everyone had a story about the need to use a restroom and difficulty finding one. It really is a universal basic human need and should not be something that we treat as a privilege.

How does this study relate to the goals of the Department of Community Engagement & Leadership?

Fiedler: We seek to bridge the campus and community and to focus our work on nonprofit, government and civic work. We focus most of what we do on social issues and so this project really fit all those goals. The ability to do both qualitative and quantitative research with community partners on a social issue is exactly the kind of experience we want our students to have, and the relationship with external community partners on these types of projects is what we hope to foster.

Students in Point Park University's Ph.D. in Community Engagement Program examined the lack of access to public restrooms in the Golden Triangle region of Downtown Pittsburgh.

What are your key takeaways from this experience?

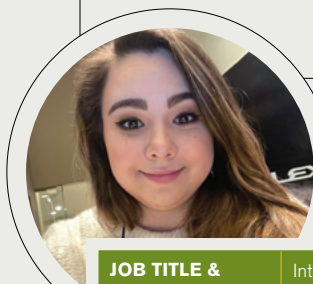
Riegelneegg: This was possibly the most valuable class I've taken in the Ph.D. program, which speaks volumes because so many courses have been essential to what we are learning. Because this was a true problem with multiple potential solutions, it was incredibly important that we ensured it was the highest quality work. The timeline was extremely short for a study of this magnitude, but by working

together, we were able to focus on the sections we were individually responsible for and pull it all together as a team with an emphasis on communication and cooperative, shared work. Having the opportunity to work directly with relevant organizations creates an elevated sense of urgency and purpose. The study will now be shared with community partners who have the ability to implement our recommendations, and it appears the project is continuing to move just as quickly. This means that the work we did, while ambitious and demanding, has real-world applications that will positively impact our community's quality of life. I am so proud of the work we did, and so humbled that we will have had a hand in improving the lives of people spending time in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Why would you recommend Point Park's Ph.D. in Community Engagement?

Riegelneegg: It is a truly interdisciplinary program. While community engagement may often be perceived as moving primarily within the non-profit sector, Point Park offers opportunities to work with different departments and community partners, which allows us to see different ways we might support, reimagine, engage and build community. ●

INTERNSHIPS
Featured Interns



Grace Balzer '22

JOB TITLE & EMPLOYER	Intern, Penguins Radio Network
MAJOR	<i>Journalism</i>
HOMETOWN	<i>Springdale, PA</i>

Tell us about the work you do as an intern with Penguins Radio Network.

I do a variety of jobs as an intern. I have the opportunity to manage their Twitter account, Penguins Live, for every game (home and away). On there, I post pre-game, game and post-game updates for fans to follow along. At home games, I have been learning to produce the pre/post-game shows with Producer Craig Rechichar. I have also recently started recording post-game interviews in the media room to send to Executive Producer Wayne Anderson to be aired on the show.

Why would you recommend Point Park's journalism program to a prospective student?

The journalism program at Point Park is one of the top programs around. There are many opportunities for students to get involved on campus and learn the ropes of writing, photography, videography, reporting and more. Students gain hands-on experience outside of the classroom, which is much more beneficial than sitting in a classroom for four years. Plus, the faculty have worked in the field they teach in and provide expert advice in many areas.

Alehjandro Sthory '22



JOB TITLE & EMPLOYER	Electrical engineer, manufacturing infrastructure services, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC)
MAJOR	<i>Electrical Engineering</i>
HOMETOWN	<i>Caracas, Venezuela</i>

This internship has enhanced my Point Park education greatly. The electrical engineering coursework provided a fundamental foundation for understanding what an electrical engineering career is. Working with CEC has made me appreciate all the knowledge Point Park gave me and how to apply it to a real-world situation. Like my manager said, Point Park helped me develop strong technical knowledge that I am able to apply in the engineering world. I came well prepared to successfully enter this field.

Brianna Kamauf '22

JOB TITLE & EMPLOYER	Booking Assistant Intern, M. Chancey Management
MAJOR	<i>Sports, Arts & Entertainment</i>
HOMETOWN	<i>West Mifflin, PA</i>

Point Park University's Sports, Arts & Entertainment Management program emphasizes the value of collaboration, from its academic partnerships with Pittsburgh sports teams and venues to the structure of its in-house record label, Pioneer Records. In that spirit, Michael Chancey '18, a Point Park MBA alumnus who completed his degree with a concentration in SAEM, works with the Professional Career-Readiness Center to provide SAEM students with experiential learning opportunities at his artist management company, M Chancey Management, which has offices in Los Angeles and Pittsburgh.

How did you land your internship with M. Chancey Management, and what made you want to intern with the company a second time?

I reached out to Mr. Chancey on LinkedIn to set up an interest interview so that I could learn more about his company. I sent Mr. Chancey my resume, which includes information about my music content and curation project, Iofinites. We reviewed my resume, social media content and curation project, after which he offered me a social media marketing position.

Coming back for a second internship as a booking assistant was one of the easiest decisions I have made. Working with M Chancey Management has helped me narrow down my goals and focus on building concrete skills. I have learned to take chances on myself and to be confident in my skills and adaptability to new environments. The music industry is constantly growing and changing, and I have learned how to grow with it from the hands-on experience I have gained.





Maranda Douthett '22

JOB TITLE & EMPLOYER	Digital Marketing Intern, Responsival
MAJOR	English/Creative Writing
HOMETOWN	Pittsburgh

Describe your Responsival internship experience.

Under the guidance of Responsival's digital marketing manager, I worked on a variety of assignments related to elevating the web and social media presences of our clients. I searched for blogs that aligned with their values and products. I completed keyword research to improve traction to their websites. I also looked for social media influencers who could help market their products on their social media pages.

In what ways do you feel this internship will help you with your career goals?

This internship has broadened my view of the careers I can pursue with my degree. After working closely with Dawnesse Booker in the Professional Career-Readiness Center and having a few interviews over break, I see that this internship has made me a more attractive job candidate in fields outside of creative writing, such as marketing, communications and public relations. Employers appreciate not only experience but diversity in skills, and this internship will help set me apart from other applicants.

Why would you recommend Point Park to a prospective student?

Point Park's campus is extremely diverse in terms of students and faculty. The students come from all different walks of life, and all the faculty here are equally accommodating to our learning experiences. I would recommend Point Park to a prospective student because of the opportunities that are readily available in Downtown Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. The University offers great connections to different kinds of internships and jobs that are helpful to anyone's future.

Julius Thomas '22



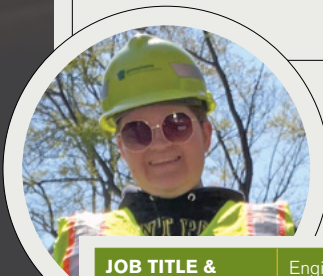
JOB TITLE & EMPLOYER	Video Production Intern, Pittsburgh Opera
MAJOR	Cinema Production
HOMETOWN	Washington, Pa

What are your responsibilities as a video production intern?

As a video production intern, I help make promotional content for the Pittsburgh Opera. This consists of video projects like opening night testimonials, where I record footage of each opera performance and intercut that with sound bites from audience members talking about the opening night of the show and hearing their thoughts. Some future projects will be behind-the-scenes videos to see what happens off-stage in the opera world, and a video capturing the Pittsburgh Opera's fashion show.

In what ways has your undergraduate experience prepared you for this role?

My undergraduate experience has prepared me for this role by giving me opportunities to gain filmmaking experience. Before coming to Point Park, I had little familiarity with working on films or creating content, but throughout my years here, I've worked on more and more projects, honing my skills on each one, collaborating with others and figuring things out along the way.



Amanda Wiest '23

JOB TITLE & EMPLOYER	Engineering, Scientific & Technical Intern, PennDOT's Engineering District 9
MAJOR	Civil Engineering Technology
HOMETOWN	New Enterprise, PA

This internship has helped me grow my confidence for obtaining a job in my field of study after graduation. I have also gained valuable hands-on experience that will help me later when I am the one designing structures for projects.

Up until this point, I have learned everything in theory. This internship showed me that just because it works on paper does not mean it will work out in the field.

As a future designer, I will need to keep in mind the importance of communicating with the inspectors and contractors on a construction project. They are more frequently out in the field than the designers, so they will have a better understanding of what will work and what will not work for a specific project.

**Note: the Civil Engineering Technology program has been discontinued, but Point Park now offers a B.S. degree program in Civil Engineering.*

STUDENT LIFE

Move-In Week

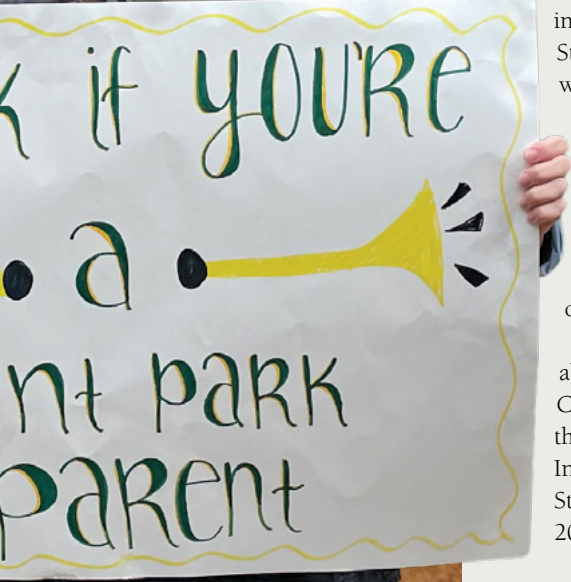
Move-In Week for the Fall 2022 semester began the weekend of Aug. 20-21, with first-year freshmen beginning their arrivals that Monday. In all, Point Park welcomed more than 730 new students, with nearly 600 of them first-year freshmen. That freshmen class represented 42 states/territories and 11 countries. Students and their families pulled into the Student Center lot at scheduled times to load belongings into bins with support from students, faculty, staff and President Don Green.



MOVE-IN WEEK '22



ARK CITY



DID YOU KNOW?
Point Park
Students Prove the
Effectiveness
of 'Renegade' During
Steelers Home Games

The jig is up; the news is out: When the Pittsburgh Steelers play the Styx song “Renegade” at home games, it actually works.

The Steelers are more likely to hold a lead or go ahead after the song plays at Acrisure Stadium, according to a research study by Point Park University’s Natural Sciences, Engineering, & Technology (NSET) department and its Center for Media Innovation. Opposing teams also are more likely to fumble on the very next play.

Point Park students who contributed significantly to the research study are Sophia Gronczewski, Teaira Jones, Noah Marshalek and Dontae Washington.

“The statistical tests we used are pretty simple and within reach of students in my Elementary Statistics courses, so it was natural to have our undergraduates assist in the collection and processing,” said Matt Pascal, professor and department chair of NSET.

The project came about after Andrew Conte, director of the Center for Media Innovation, attended a Steelers home game in 2021 when the visiting

Chicago Bears fumbled on the first play after the song played. He argued that Renegade affected the outcome, while a friend said it couldn’t have. Now the world knows.

“As a fan, the link seemed obvious to me, but it’s even more fascinating to see the impact reflected in the game statistics,” Conte said.

Styx’s “Renegade” rock anthem has been the last-stand battle cry for the Steelers for the past 20 years, getting fans out of their seats and grabbing the attention of players from both the home and away teams. Until now, no one has known what effects, if any, the song has on actual game outcomes.

A team of students led by Pascal crunched game data from 54 home games between 2014 and 2021. They found that after Renegade was played at Heinz Field:

- The Steelers maintained a lead in 33 games (61.1%) and came from behind to win or tie in six games (11.1%); they lost the lead in eight games (14.8%) and continued losing in seven games (13.0%).
- Opposing teams were seven times more likely to fumble on the very next play, or 7% of the time.

The song plays only during the second half of the game, during a TV timeout, and when the Steelers’ defense or special teams is on the field. Renegade typically appears with a video of defensive plays curated for that specific game.

“Every football fan knows that song is a Steeler



tradition, but I can tell you that no one could have predicted it was a game-changer,” Washington said.

Renegade made its debut at Heinz Field on January 5, 2002, during a playoff game against the Cleveland Browns. The Pittsburgh Steelers were down 24-7 during the third quarter. After the Steelers punted the ball away, the production crew decided to play renegade to get both the crowd and team back into the game.

After it was played, the fans got pumped and the Steelers defense made a stop and the offense responded with a touchdown. The Steelers went on to win the game 36-33, and Renegade has been played ever since.

Even without data, many fans and even some Steelers players have believed in the power of the song. Some opposing teams even have taken to playing “Renegade” at practice the week before playing in Pittsburgh to acclimate.

“This project showed me how I can integrate different elements of other fields into the career path I’m on,” Gronczewski said. “It showed how I can take an observation in my area of study and discern its true nature using other disciplines, like statistics.” ●

POINT PARK

UNIVERSITY

201 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-392-6176
PointPark.edu

FALL 2022 FAST FACTS

ENROLLMENT: 3,288

TUITION:
\$44,420 COPA
\$34,880 all other schools

POINT
PARK
PROUD!

Ranked in the
**TOP
10**
on Playbill.com's
list of the "10 Most
Represented Colleges
on Broadway"

Recognized by
Abound as
"One of The
**100
BEST**
Online Colleges
of 2022"

Recognized by
DanceUS.org as
"One of the
BEST
College Dance
Programs" for 2021-22

Ranked as one of the
**TOP
10**
Musical Theater
programs in the nation
by OnStage Blog