Governor Announces Investment in Urban Park

On Dec. 13, 2010, in Point Park’s Lawrence Hall, outgoing Governor Edward G. Rendell announced that Pennsylvania has awarded $84 million for 19 projects throughout Allegheny County that will provide the foundation for the creation of more than 10,000 new jobs. As one of these awardees, Point Park received a $3.25 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from Gov. Rendell and the state legislature for the construction of a new park at Wood Street and Boulevard of the Allies.

Funding for the 19 projects comes from the state’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, which operates on a reimbursement basis as construction expenses are billed and paid on projects that have been approved by the General Assembly and signed into law by the governor.

The new corner park will improve the quality of life for students, visitors and residents of the neighborhood by replacing a surface parking lot with greenery and water features. It is a key component of the Academic Village at Point Park University, site preparation and construction began last fall on the distinctive outdoor gathering spot, which will feature colorful River Birch trees, plantings and a colonnade that will wrap the sides of two University buildings: the Boulevard Apartments and 100 Wood St. The south colonnade will open into a new restaurant on the lower level of the Wood St. building, and will culminate in a striking stairway featuring a granite fountain on the lower level. Designers for the park are the architectural firm Tasso Katselas Associates (TKA) Inc. and Klavan Design, a landscape architecture firm. Massaro Corporation is leading construction on the park.

The new plaza, which will complement the design of the revitalized streetscape along the Wood Street Corridor between Ft. Pitt Boulevard and Third Ave., is scheduled to be completed in fall 2011. To learn more about Point Park’s urban green space, visit www.pointpark.edu/About/Academic/VillageInitiative/UrbanPark.


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Problems of Picture Making

Sarah Perrier, Ph.D., assistant professor, was a featured poet on PBS NewsHour’s Art Beat blog. The national public broadcasting’s weekly poetry segment presents Perrier reading “Poem in Which I Fail to Appear” in a videotaped at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference in Washington, D.C. The poem is from Perrier’s book Nothing Fatal (2010, University of Akron Press). She is also the author of the chapbook Just One of Those Things (2003, Kent State’s Signature Series), which tells the story of her family to bring the reader along on the journey to fruition. The one-right-only tribute to Bob Marley, held on the 30th anniversary of his final performance, was launched by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as the best concert of 2010. Many SAEM students assisted in production of the concert.

Manley Witten, adjunct professor in the School of Communication, edited War with Mexico! America’s Reporters Cover the Battlefront, written by Tom Reilly and published by the University of Kansas Press. The Mexican War was the first foreign war to be comprehensively reported in the American press. The book tells the history of the war through the eyes of reporters and reflects how that effort signaled the emergence of newspapers as an important force in American life.

Tatyana Durnova, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Communication, has joined a group of assessment experts in the field of communication to develop a comprehensive guide for measuring discipline-specific outcomes of student learning. Durnova is the lead author of a chapter on online assessment resources about media, digital culture, technology and the interactions that human beings have within the synthetic environment. The lecture series brought three photographic artists to campus to speak this spring: Nate Abramowski on Jan. 28, Christine Holtz on Feb. 25 and Heathar Pinson on March 29.

Ed Traversari, professional in residence with the sport, arts and entertainment management (SAEM) program, co-ceived of a Bob Marley Live Forever concert about five years ago and worked with the Marley family to bring the notion to fruition. The one-right-only tribute to Bob Marley, held on the 30th anniversary of his final performance, was launched by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as the best concert of 2010. Many SAEM students assisted in production of the concert.

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