dynamic presentations on a wide range of topics.

Tatyana Dumova, associate professor in the School of Communication, made two peer-reviewed research presentations at the annual National Communication Association (NCA) convention in New Orleans held Nov. 17–20. Her presentations were: “Utilizing Online Surveys and Self-Assessments for Motivating and Engaging e-Learners” and “A Study of the Relationship Between Student Proficiency, Satisfaction, and Perceived Usability of Online Search.” Dumova also published an edited book (with Richard Fiordo, University of North Dakota), Blogging in the Global Society: Cultural, Political and Geographical Aspects (Information Science Reference, 2012). The book presents a cross-disciplinary analysis of the diverse factors affecting blogging practices, traces the diffusion of blogging as a global communication innovation, and sheds light on the current trends in the global blogosphere.

Shirley Barasch, professor emerita in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, composed “Fanfare,” a work for brass quartet, performed on Nov. 14 at St. Andrew’s Church in Highland Park as part of a series sponsored by the Tuesday Musical Club. Barasch also signed copies of her book, For Professional Purposes, An Artistic Journey, on Dec. 1 at the Pleasant Hills Library, and on Dec. 7 at the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Duquesne University. The book traces her experiences as a composer and musician.

Angela Meiers is the new employee relations coordinator in the Career Development Center. Meiers, who received her master’s degree in organizational leadership from Point Park in 2010, previously spent several years coordinating events for the Center. With the creation of this new position, the Career Development Center aims to boost the number of internship opportunities and employers recruiting.

New Board Members

Point Park announced the election of two candidates for membership on the Board of Trustees:

Julie A. Lyda is currently Black Box Corporation’s vice president of technical product solutions, North America and Asia Pacific. She has been with the company for 18 years. Prior to her work at Black Box Corporation, Lyda was the materials management supervisor at Pfizer, Inc. Lyda has served on the Executive Committee for the American Cancer Society Premiere Golf Event and is the co-executive chair for the event in 2012. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Women and Girls Foundation. Lyda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business logistics from Penn State University.

David J. Peart is the senior vice president of sales for the Pittsburgh Penguins, where he is the chief sales executive and head of departments that manage the Penguins’ local revenue and business development units. Peart also has held positions with the San Francisco 49ers, the Houston Texans and the Texas Rangers/Dallas Stars. He is a member of Point Park University’s President’s Task Force Advisory Committee and was a Point Park University Distinguished Alumni nominee in 2007. Peart is a founding member of the board of Advisors of Sports Sponsorship and Sales Program at Baylor University Hankamer School of Business. He has contributed to numerous publications and books on sports management and marketing. Peart is a Point Park graduate with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and communications.

Government Leaders Visit the Academic Village

Jack Wagner, Pennsylvania’s auditor general, visited Point Park earlier this year to tour the Academic Village Initiative with President Paul Hennigan. He updated Wagner on Point Park’s progress so far on the $244 million academic and economic development project, which has benefited from investment of state and federal dollars. Hennigan showed Wagner the new Village Park and described the ongoing work on the Wood Street corridor renovations, which include new sidewalks and curbs, street resurfacing, lighting, plantings and pedestrian safety improvements. As the state’s auditor general, Wagner is responsible for protecting how tax dollars are spent and ensuring that government operates efficiently and effectively. Wagner is no stranger to the University campus. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966 to 1968 and receiving a Purple Heart in the Vietnam War, he returned to Pittsburgh and started his road to a college degree at then Point Park College. Later serving as a member of Pittsburgh City Council, Wagner was an outspoken advocate for the importance of a strong urban core and the impact it has on the Pittsburgh region.

On Jan. 11, Point Park and its community partners also had an opportunity to update Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Barry Schoch, P.E. and PennDOT District Executive Dan Cessna, on the progress of the Wood Street Corridor development project. Participating in the review were partners from the City Department of Public Works, State Representative Paul Costa (D-34), State Representative Joe Markosek (D-25), Gary Dejidais, president and CEO of GAI Consultants, and John Coyne of GAI Consultants.

To donate online or for more information, visit www.pointpark.edu/annualfund or call 412-395-3999.

SUPPORTING the JOURNEY...

Make a life-changing journey possible for deserving students with your unrestricted gift to Point Park University’s Annual Fund or designate your gift to one of the University’s four schools: Arts and Sciences, Business, Communication, Conservatory of Performing Arts.

(Tax-deductible as allowed by law)

New Center for Student Success

Point Park has announced the establishment of the new Center for Student Success and appointed a new director of this area, Rachel Amos. The Center for Student Success combines many years of exceptional experience from the Success Centers of the four schools into one comprehensive center. The purpose of the Center will be to provide quality academic and career support so all students can reach their academic, personal and career potential. It is housed on the second floor of the 101 Wood Street Building.

Human Trafficking Panel Discussion

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and the WQED of Greater Pittsburgh presented a panel discussion and reception on March 15 in the GRW Theater in honor of International Women’s Day 2012. “Trafficking of Women and Girls: A Global Challenge in Our Own Backyard” focused on the conditions that give rise to human trafficking. The discussion centered on what can be done in the international community to combat human trafficking, particularly concerning women and girls, and existing strategies that deal with this problem locally.

Panelists included Mary Burke, Ph.D., faculty member in the Psychology Department at Carnegie University; Brad Orsini, supervisory special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Muge Kokten Finkel, Ph.D., assistant professor of international development at University of Pittsburgh. Deborah Acklin of WQED Multimedia moderated the discussion.