John McManus is a visiting artist in theatre. Originally from Australia, he began his career studying Rudolf Steiner’s creative speech and the Michael Chekhov acting technique. Later, he studied the techniques of Patsy Rodenburg, Catherine Fitzmaurice and Louis Coalianni as well as eurythmy (an art of movement). He was the artistic director of Walking the Dog Theater and Shakespeare Alivel and leads workshops at the Michael Chekhov Association and the Herbert Berghof Studios.

New Trustees

Four candidates were elected to the Board of Trustees on Oct. 23: Antoine G. Chammas, Robin Connolly, Cynthia D. Shapira and Daryl Ford Williams.

Antoine G. Chammas is a partner in Trinity Commercial Development, a real estate development firm he co-founded in 1998. During his development career, Chammas has been responsible for the development of over 1.5 million square feet of shopping centers, office buildings, and other commercial real estate developments. Chammas is a registered professional engineer and began his career as a civil and geotechnical engineer with Solar Testing Laboratories, Inc., in Cleveland, Ohio. He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering technology from Point Park.

Robin Connolly is chief learning officer and director of recruiting operations for the PNC Financial Services Group. She is responsible for overseeing the creation of training and development in 2011 by organizational productivity. Under Connolly’s leadership, PNC was ranked fifth overall and the highest-ranked bank in training and development in 2011 by Training Magazine. Connolly holds a doctor’s degree in instructional leadership from Duquesne University. She also has a master’s degree in training and development from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor’s degree in communications and media production from Duquesne.

Cynthia D. Shapira is senior policy advisor to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. She is a member of the Board of the Allegheny County Airport Authority and was appointed by Governor Tom Corbett to the Pennsylvania Commission on Women. She chairs the United Way of Allegheny County’s initiative to address the needs of youth with disabilities “aging out” of the system through a county project and public policy solutions. Shapira is corporate secretary of the Jewish Federation of North America. Other leadership roles include co-chair of the Pittsburgh Promise Campaign and honorary co-chair of Allegheny 365, an initiative to ensure access to individuals of varying abilities in Allegheny County. Shapira has a master’s degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor’s degree summa cum laude in political science from Wellesley College.

Daryl Ford Williams is the vice president of content for WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh, where she oversees the development, production and delivery of all new and existing local, national, international and syndicated television, radio, interactive and educational programming. Under her leadership, productions have taken WQED documentary teams across the country and to Kenya, Poland, Vietnam and Austria. Ford Williams’ work has earned her Emmy Awards for The Combat Zone, part of a series of documentaries produced for WJLA-TV in Washington, D.C. and for WQED’s On Q Special Report: RX For A Healthier Community. She has served on the Mayor’s Commission on Families, Urban Youth Action, the Pittsburgh Film Office, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater and Shady Side Academy.

New Master’s Degrees Programs

M.A. in Clinical-Community Psychology

Beginning in the fall of 2013, the School of Arts and Sciences will offer a 36-credit master of arts degree in clinical-community psychology. In addition to being unique to the state, the degree program is only offered by three other universities in the U.S. “This program looks to provide communities with the tools they need to resolve issues and take steps toward making transformative changes in the well-being of their citizens,” said Brent Robbins, PhD, associate professor of psychology and incoming president of the Society for Humanistic Psychology, Division 32 of the American Psychological Association. The program integrates two fields of psychology—clinical and community psychology, offering students a holistic, humanistic, and phenomenological approach that seeks to better explain human experience and behavior. According to Robbins, “Our program is designed for individuals who are passionate about social change and have deep ethical concerns for others.” The need for psychologists to meet the demands of hospitals, schools, social service agencies, clinics and private companies is on the rise. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook, overall employment of psychologists is expected to grow 22 percent by 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. “Psychological expertise is needed in all communities. Graduates of our master’s program will come away with solid research skills and a strong psychological knowledge of how the community can contribute to the joy, dignity and freedom of individuals,” said Robbins.

M.A. in Communication Technology

Beginning in the Fall of 2013, the School of Communication will offer a 36-credit Master of Arts degree in communication technology. The innovative M.A. program will prepare students to embrace technology as an essential part of their professional portfolio for careers in fields such as multimedia, graphic design, social media and digital journalism. “This graduate program in communication technology will focus on the recent trends and practices in the area of new and emerging communication technologies,” said Tatyania Dumova, PhD., associate professor of communication. The program “will help its graduates stay current and succeed in an increasingly competitive and technology-driven world! The M.A. program reaches far beyond skills-based training, keeping communications theory, ethics and legal scholarship at its core and incorporating a focus on new social interaction technologies. Graduates will be well-positioned to pursue careers in the business, government and non-profit sectors that deal with new media production, e-publishing, marketing, public affairs, education and professional training. The program “will enable students to develop knowledge of industry standard technology tools and applications used to design, produce and disseminate communication messages,” Dumova said, and will “provide a working familiarity with technology-related principles and practices applied in diverse professional fields that are affected by established and emerging communication technologies.” Point Park developed the program in response to recent developments in communications technology and the need for skilled professionals who not only understand but also embrace those ongoing changes. “The School of Communication is taking a lead in the region by establishing this M.A. program focused on new media technology,” said Steve Hallock, PhD, director of the school and its graduate studies program. “The world of journalism is changing and we are leading this change rather than waiting for it to come to us.” Graduates will also be able to engage in communication technology analysis and research or seek admission to doctoral programs. Courses will be offered for both daytime and evening schedules, giving students the option of completing degree coursework entirely through evening classes.

Learn More about Graduate Programs

For additional details on the new master’s degree programs and other graduate education opportunities, including information about alumni tuition discounts, contact the Office of Graduate and Adult Enrollment, at plenroll@pointpark.edu or 412-392-3808.

Scholarship Dinner Brings Benefactors & Recipients Together

Nearly 100 people gathered together for the Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner in the Lawrence Hall ballroom on Nov. 1. Attendees included alumni and friends who have established an endowed scholarship fund, as well as current students and graduates who have benefited from a named scholarship during their studies. Among the more than 40 endowed scholarship funds at Point Park are those that honor the memory of a family member or friend, favorite teacher or other special purpose. The Thomas W. Golonski Family Undergraduate Scholarship, for example, benefits non-traditional undergraduates such as adults in part-time or accelerated programs. “Our generous benefactors share a commitment to the mission of Point Park University,” says Barbara Cinpinski, Esq, director of planned giving. “They want to give back to students and to future generations.” For more information, contact Cinpinski at 412-392-4215 or bcinpinski@pointpark.edu.