

FEEDBACK

Remarkable Growth

We are so glad to see the continued growth of Point Park, which appears to be becoming an even bigger part of Downtown Pittsburgh! Seeing all the improvements and new development, well, it's nothing short of remarkable. Remembering our humble roots, it is rewarding beyond words to see Point Park's bright future. We are proud of everyone there. Keep up the outstanding work!

We recently received a letter from Point Park's president [focusing on] 'Why I Give'

to Point Park University. The timing was remarkable, as we were preparing to make our annual gift. It is a wonderful idea to 'keep in touch' with the many alumni who consider their education at Point Park so important to their success in life, and love to hear about the University's plans for the future.

We remember that western Pennsylvania winters can be tough (and that's whether the six-time world champion Pittsburgh Steelers win again, or not!) A 'spring break' of sunshine can be a very positive way to 're-charge.' Lambda

Chi Alpha, my Point Park fraternity, had a group that went to Florida almost every year. We recommend a road trip to the Sunshine State!

Bill Bruun and **Cabrini Bruun** (A&S 1969) Ft. Myers, Fla.

Editor's Note: Calling all Florida alums! The Point Park Alumni Office team will host alumni events in Ft. Lauderdale on Feb. 15, Tampa on Feb. 16 and Orlando on Feb. 17. Visit PointPark.edu/alumni for more information.



Jim Rohr (right) joins President Paul Hennigan and Board of Trustees Chair Anne Lewis in the Village Park. Photo by John Altdorfer.

Along Jim Rohr Way

The leadership and community engagement of former PNC Financial Services Group Inc. Chairman and CEO **Jim Rohr** were commemorated by the City of Pittsburgh dedicating Wood Street in front of

Two PNC Plaza, Point Park's corporate neighbor in Downtown Pittsburgh. After a naming ceremony with Pittsburgh business, political and civic leaders in 2015, the University had a separate ceremony last fall to place a sign in the Village Park marking Jim Rohr Way. Rohr joined Presi-

dent **Paul Hennigan**, University Board of Trustees Chair **Anne Lewis**, and other members of the Point Park community on September 20 as they celebrated the enduring impact Rohr has made on Point Park's Academic Village Initiative and beyond.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Professional Advancement

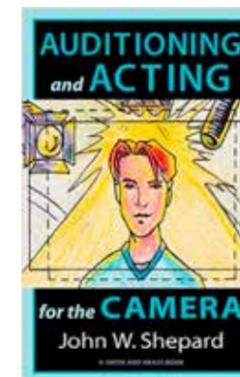
Brendan Mullan, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, presented on the topic "Change and the Cosmos" Dec. 3 at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association Conference in Murfreesboro, Tenn. In his presentation, Mullan explained how change is inevitable and a fundamental part of the language of physics and the laws that govern the universe. In addition, National Geographic recently featured Mullan in the videos, "TIL: Why Mars' Ocean Disappeared" and "TIL: How to Transform Mars Into Our Second Home," which have resulted in more than 50,000 views on YouTube alone. Mullan was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2013 and is an internationally respected astrophysicist, science communicator and education program developer and director.

Tatyana Dumova, Ph.D., professor in the School of Communication, participated in the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Communication Association last September at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Dumova presented "Information Literacy Assessment in a University-Wide Core Theme Course for First-Year Students" as part of a panel on "Assessment in the Context of National Communication Association Learning Outcomes." She also made a poster presentation titled "Creating Clusters of Excellence within Graduate Programs in Communication" about the challenges facing graduate programs offered by small colleges and universities and strategies for potential solutions.

Paige Beal, M.B.A., assistant professor of sports, arts and entertainment management, presented on the topic "Storytelling Data" as part of a panel discussion on "Effective Strategies for Teaching

Analytics" at the Marketing Management Association Educators' Conference Sept. 16, 2016, in Providence, R.I. "I shared techniques for teaching students how to deliver data analytics in a manner that is relevant and clear to their audiences. Some of these techniques include the creation of infographics and the use of visuals to make data easily understandable," Beal explained. She will serve as co-chair of the Marketing Management Association Educators' Conference, which will take place in Pittsburgh in 2017.

John Shepard, professor of theatre, is the author of *Auditioning and Acting for the Camera*, available on Amazon. The compendium of techniques for auditioning and performing in film, episodic TV, sitcoms, soap operas, commercials and more was named among "11 Amazing Books for the On Camera Actor" by Backstage Magazine, one of the country's largest, most influential theatre resources.



Chelsea Pompeani is working to build connections for Point Park's new Center for Media Innovation. As media innovation specialist, Pompeani manages the center's social media sites while developing cutting-edge programming for students, journalists and the public. "We are very pleased to have someone as experienced and talented as Chelsea join our team," said **Andrew Conte**, the center's director. Pompeani was most recently the public and communications director for AAA East Central. Prior to that, she served as a news reporter for WROC-TV in Rochester, N.Y., and WJET-TV in Erie.

Jonas Prida, Ph.D. has joined Point Park as assistant provost for curriculum, assessment, and accreditation. He previously spent eight years at the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, Vt., where he served in several faculty and administrative capacities, most recently as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. Prida will provide leadership for the University's student learning outcomes assessment and assistance in curriculum development, while working closely with the faculty, department chairs and program directors, staff, and administrators, to assess and improve student learning.

Ken Mori, part-time faculty member in the Department of Education, serves as the American Board of Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) coordinator at Point Park. Upon successfully meeting requirements specified by both ABCTE and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, candidates may apply for Instructional I Pennsylvania state certification in a number of content areas. All candidates must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university prior to initiating the ABCTE program. For more details, contact Mori at kmori@pointpark.edu or 412-392-3487.

Dave Fabilli, professor in the School of Communication, announced the release of the album "*Abbey Lincoln, Love Having You Around*" by HighNote Records. Fabilli produced the album, researched the material and wrote the liner notes. The 35th album on which he has worked, this is the second of a two-album set released from a series of live performances at the legendary San Francisco jazz club, the Keystone Korner. In one of the album's reviews, Lincoln is described as "a member of the idiom's songstress royalty."