



New Hip-Hop Concentration



Conservatory of Performing Arts students performed RENT at the University's Pittsburgh Playhouse.

Submitted by Gina Puppo

Soto 'departs' from role as Provost

Galvin Petrone
Co-News Editor

Michael Soto, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, will be "departing his role," according to an announcement Monday, Jan. 6, by President Brussalis.

Soto's position will be temporarily filled by Dr. Shari Payne, who previously served as dean of the School of Education.

Payne's position will be filled in the interim by Dr. Ginny Chambers, an associate professor of education.

"Please join me in thanking Dr. Soto for his many contributions to our institution, including his dedication to advancing academic excellence and supporting our students and faculty," Brussalis said in the announcement. "We wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Soto's staff profile was erased from Point Park's website Saturday prior to the announcement.

His departure and its accompanying fallout along with the recent Conservato-

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New School of Dance, and School of Theatre, Film and Animation

Cassandra Harris
Editor-in-Chief

The Conservatory of Performing Arts (COPA) will receive a restructure this semester, according to an announcement from President Brussalis on Monday, Jan. 6.

On Monday, the Dance Department was renamed to the School of Dance and will feature a new hip-hop concentration along with its existing ballet, jazz and modern concentrations. The School of Dance will also allow students to pick concentrations in concert or commercial dance, and a minor in choreography and musical theatre.

"This was an idea long in the making," dean of the School of Dance Garfield Lemonious said. "With the work of our hip-hop dance professor Crystal Frazier, we can bring this idea to fruition."

Frazier was unavailable to fulfill a request for comment in time for print.

The rest of COPA was renamed Monday as the School of Theatre, Film and Animation. The rename is to increase cinema's visibility, opportunities and prominence. This is meant to provide a better outcome for students, in addition to driving up enrollment numbers, according to President Chris Brussalis.

"Enrollment wasn't meeting our

expectations in cinema," Brussalis said. "We think the naming was hurting us."

Anna Castleman, a sophomore dance major, said she agreed with Point Park's decision to discern between concert and commercial concentrations.

"I think, in that respect, adding a hip hop concentration will support those people who want the kind of commercial composure.

"I'm curious to see how—if there are any major changes—how information is presented to us [and] what classes people have to take," Castleman said, "Because concert dance and commercial dance are different things."

The dance department change was triggered by its increasing prominence as one of the top programs in the nation and its necessity to expand, Brussalis said.

According to DanceUs.org, Point Park was ranked alongside Slippery Rock University as one of the best Pennsylvania dance schools of 2023-2024. It was ranked ninth in the nation by backstage.com.

To accommodate for the new programs, four new studios will be added and finished this fall, Brussalis said.

They will be built at 225 Blvd. of the Allies, a leased property located next to Thayer and Academic Hall.

The new studios will be outfitted with equipment and added dance faculty, according to Lemonious.

"With a new School of Dance, we can certainly enroll more students without impacting our conservatory model," he said. "This supports the university's strategic plan."

In the Fall of 2024, 364 students were enrolled in the dance program, up from 317 in the Fall of 2023, according to Lou Corsaro, vice president of public relations.

Many of these students transferred to Point Park after the closure of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Brussalis said the restructuring was not triggered by the closure.

The change to a School of Dance also provides opportunities to partner with other schools, including the Rowland School of Business, the School of Communication and the School of Education, according to the release.

Kiesha Lalama was named interim dean of the School of Theatre, Film and Animation. Her former title as Director of the Pittsburgh Playhouse was revised to Executive Producer.

Lalama said the title change will allow for better organizational flow, oversight of productions and new project development.

Lalama will also be joined by Gary Kline, a nationally recognized voice teacher and pioneer in musical theatre. He's been associated with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)

COPA page 2

"To accommodate for the new programs, four new studios will be added and finished this fall, Brussalis said."

Second 'Wellness On-the-Go' machine

Michael Klug
Website/Opinions editor

The University Health Center implemented a second "Wellness On-the-Go" vending machine over winter break adding onto the first located on the first floor of the Student Center.

On Dec. 18, the new vending machine was installed on the second floor of Academic Hall behind the elevators and provides low cost or no cost health items to students and faculty.

A vending machine was originally supposed to be installed in August but wasn't due to it breaking. University Health Center Nurse Rebecca Harper said this vending machine replaces the one that was busted.

This adds a total of two "Wellness On-the-Go" vending machines on campus, with the other one being located on the first floor



Michael Klug | The Globe

The new "Wellness On-the-Go" vending machine sits in Academic Hall.

VENDING page 2

PPU Police Chief Besong takes on two roles

Galvin Petrone
Co-News Editor

Point Park's Chief of Police Jeffery Besong will begin serving as both Carlow University's and Point Park's Chief of Police this semester, according to Point Park's Leadership Report published in November.

"I am honored to take on the responsibility of leading the police departments at both Point Park University and Carlow University," Besong said. "This joint leadership role is an opportunity to enhance collaboration, strengthen safety measures and create a unified approach to public safety in the Pittsburgh area."

Carlow and Point Park will still continue to have separately staffed and budgeted police departments, according to Lou Corsaro, assistant vice president of public relations.

"Chief Besong has long

BESONG page 2

Gary Kline to serve as interm associate dean

From COPA page 1

since 1989, according to the website. He will act as interim associate dean for the School of Theatre, Film and Animation, according to the release. In addition, new support staff will be hired to provide new marketing strategies for recruitment/enrollment growth and community engagement, according to Lalama.

“In partnership with Gary and our gifted faculty, we are well-positioned for success,” Lalama said in the release. “Establishing

this school gives us the opportunity to cultivate multifaceted artists and develop dynamic projects for the audiences of tomorrow.

“We are lucky to have an administration that supports the arts,” Lemonious said. “That is not so at other peer institutions.”

Lemonious added that, as the new schools progress, there will be more programs to come.

Co-News Editor Gavin Petrone assisted with reporting on this article.



Submitted by Gina Puppo

Film students use the soundstage on campus which provides professional learning.

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Shari Payne named interm provost

From SOTO page 1

ry of Performing Arts restructure leaves Point Park with nine interim hiring positions.

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, department chair of Natural Sciences and Engineering, director of the modern unit in the School of Dance, program director of Strategic and Sports Communication and program coordinator of Broadcasting and Digital Journalism in the School of Communication, director of cinema production in the Cinema Arts Department, the aforementioned provost and dean of School of Education positions are all listed as “interim” on Point Park’s faculty list.

Dean of the new School of Theatre, Film and Animation and its associate position were noted as being filled in the interim as well.

Those positions are temporarily filled by current faculty while the administration looks for new hires.

“We will conduct national searches this spring for both the provost and dean positions to identify permanent leaders who will continue to drive Point Park’s mission forward,” Brussalis said.



Caleb McCartney | The Globe

Former Provost Soto presents a speech at Newsapaloza.

The provost position oversees all academic programs, including faculty and courses. Soto had served as provost since May of 2021.

Prior to his time at Point Park, Soto was a teaching fellow at Harvard University, a member of the Texas State Board of Education and a professor of English and associate vice president of academic affairs at Trinity University.

Soto earned a Bachelors of

Arts in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University.

He has written publications on literature and teaching literature.

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Wellness vending

From VENDING page 1

of the Student Center.

Harper said these machines were made possible by a grant from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

“I am so excited to have both of them up and running and fully functional,” Harper said. “This gives easier access to students [in] Thayer and Lawrence hall.”

For now, these two vending machines are the only ones that will be on campus.

“If the Jewish Healthcare Foundation offers this grant again, we will reevaluate,” Harper said.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation could not provide comment in time for print.

While the vending machine in Academic Hall does not have Plan B, Harper says that it will still be in the Student Center vending machine and in the Health Center.

“I have plenty of Plan B in stock, so if someone needs it, just because they want it for peace of mind, they can stop by the Health Center,” Harper said. “But I do ask that people don’t just take it to stock up from the vending machine. We want it there so if somebody truly has a contraceptive emergency that it’s available to them.”

Harper also said if anyone ever has an issue with the vending machines or has questions or concerns, they should reach out to her Point Park email rharper@pointpark.edu.

Michael Klug
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Besong splits time between two offices

From BESONG page 1

been a proactive and innovative leader in campus policing, and we are confident in his ability to effectively run both departments,” Corsaro said.

Corsaro added that Besong will split his in-office times between Carlow and Point Park. When Besong is not available, Lt. Matthew Mays serves as the next highest ranking officer.

Besong has served as Point Park’s assistant vice president of public safety, or chief of police, since 2009, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Besong previously served as Chief of Police at Carlow University from 2002 to 2009 before coming to Point Park.

He was also awarded a YMCA Racial Justice Award in 2016.

Besong’s compensation for his joint roles is unknown, as Point Park policy withholds faculty pay amounts from the public.

“My commitment in making Point Park a safe and welcoming place is still my top pri-

ority, and I am excited to apply our successes to Carlow,” Besong said. “This agreement allows us to share best practices and resources, creating a model for effective safety in higher education.”

President Chris Brussalis has championed shared administrative resources between Pittsburgh colleges since Sept. 2023, when his consulting firm Hill Group found that local schools could save over \$20 million under that model.

“We are always looking for innovative ways to grow the university and share our expertise with others,” Brussalis wrote in the aforementioned Leadership Report.

“This collaboration enhances campus security for both institutions. His proactive and innovative leadership in campus policing assures me that he will continue to excel and be an asset to both universities,” Brussalis said.

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Courtesy of the Point Park website

Police Chief Jeffery Besong sits in uniform for a photo.

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Arrest Warrant

1/5
Shooting
Ninth Street
One Injured
Investigating



CRIME REPORT

Day of Giving raises money for campus community

Peyton Martin
Co News Editor

Last year, Point Park University held its Day of Giving event on Nov. 14. The Day of Giving is a 24-hour celebration of community, philanthropy and the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed primarily by the generous donation of money to compelling causes.

The event showcases the many ways alumni, donors, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of Point Park are able to support the universities' students and programs. Raising funding isn't the only thing the event does. It also strengthens the connection between our community and Point Park.

Students could participate in many activities during the Day of Giving. Students were able to have coffee and doughnuts with President Chris Brussalis, make thank you cards for the donors, enjoy live performances from Point Park students and alumni and throw pies at their favorite professors, staff members or even the president.

The Day of Giving is an opportunity for donors to directly support the students and the programs at Point Park University. On the Day of Giving, donors can choose to contribute to a wide variety of departments and initiatives like athletics and the Pioneer Pantry.

"Every contribution, big or small, strengthens the university and helps fund hands-on learning opportunities and enhance programs that directly affect students' education and experience," Donors Relations Officer Emily Sjoberg said.

Leading up to the event, the Office of University Advancement worked collaboratively with the deans, department heads, leadership, trustees, alumni board members, student organizations and faculty to develop a plan to maximize the success of the Day of Giving, said Jill Zoria, assistant vice president for university advancement.

The Office of University Advancement also worked closely with its practicum student as she conducted multiple alumni and

student interviews. Point Park social media accounts showcased these interviews on their platforms to persuade donors nationwide to contribute money.

"Together, these efforts ensured we effectively engaged our community and made the most of this incredible opportunity to support Point Park's students and programs," Zoria said.

One of the main goals of the Day of Giving was to see improvement in the funds donated compared to the previous fundraisers in January 2024 and November 2022 Days of Giving, Zoria said. During the Point Park Day of Giving in November 2022, approximately \$170,000 was raised for the university.

The Day of Giving event in November 2024 raised approximately \$270,000 which is a 60% increase in donations based on total dollar amount. Additionally, the total number of individual contributions and online transactions both increased by 40% compared to November 2022.

"These milestones reflect the collective effort of our alumni,

faculty, staff, and friends," Zoria said.

Moving forward, the future campaign for the Day of Giving will be shaped by applying the key learnings and additional input from Point Park students.

"We have bold aspirations for the years ahead, and with the continued support and guidance from our students and many others, we are confident that the best is yet to come," Zoria said.

Point Park University isn't the only institution to hold Day of Giving events. Many other organizations hold their own Day of Giving. Drew Williams, a senior animation major, donated to humanitarian efforts in Gaza because the Day of Giving provided him links to verified humanitarian efforts.

"Personally, I think it's great and really helpful for reminding people to donate but also sharing individual cases or needs of charity that go overlooked sometimes," Williams said.

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Point Park sidewalk clings elicit positive feedback

Melissa Garlock
Staff Writer

Point Park's main appeal and iconic slogans typically mention the campus' unique location: downtown Pittsburgh. With ownership of and affiliation to over 15 properties in the heart of the city, the University dominates downtown Pittsburgh's footprints.

Point Park's campus rests disguised amongst the neighboring establishments such as Ritik's Bank Tower Market and the La Gourmandine Bakery to both create the stereotypical college aesthetic. Green pennants line the buildings to serve as directional aids, which these markings clearly state Point Park University and label campus buildings such as the Student Center or Academic Hall.

Aside from these miniature Point Park flags, pedestrians exploring the streets of Pittsburgh or even locals may be unaware that they are within campus grounds. When classes are not in session, people may find themselves relaxing or enjoying the greenery in Village Park, completely unaware they are in the center of a university campus.

This problem came to a head during the annual Pickle festival, "Picklesburgh," during summer 2023. The event lines the Boulevard of the Allies, essentially merging into campus. Less and less visitors knew they were within the Point Park domain. According to Point Park's marketing team, feedback said the only identifiable signs to identify campus are found when looking upwards at the pennants.

So, by Picklesburgh 2024, the marketing department created the large, green and square sidewalk clings found on Wood Street and Boulevard of the Allies.

Initially deployed for



Caleb McCartney | The Globe

Students walk on the sidewalk of Wood Street, which has had sidewalk clings placed down to identify parts of campus since Picklesburgh in 2024.

use primarily during Picklesburgh, the marketing department received praise from visitors, faculty and summer program attendees. So, the team decided to keep the clings up year-round due to the positive feedback.

Students attending Point Park during this past fall semester have had a variety of reactions to the sidewalk decor. Jared Rolbez, a junior criminal justice major, said that he approves the new addition to the sidewalks on campus.

"They are pretty cool," Rolbez said. "I actually saw them put [the sidewalk clings] on the ground, I like to pass them," Rolbez said.

Other students feel as though the clings can be rather frustrating. Hafiz Adamou, a sophomore child psychology major, admits his feelings are conflicted.

"I like them," Adamou

said. "I do wish they were more durable because of the rain and weather, but otherwise pretty cool,"

The creative services group, which is made up of three graphic designers, created the sidewalk vinyls to be clear and distinct. The large print simply has the university logo on it just like you would see it anywhere else on campus - bold, white text on a green background. This is intended to naturally produce more school spirit, as a well decorated campus can implement pride from students.

The placement of the sidewalk clings have no specific rhyme or reason. While some may use it for navigation purposes, the marketing team simply placed them at the largest intersections to be more noticeable. While preparing to place the clings, the team exam-

ined the ground in which they will lay. The area must be flat, with no crevices or cracks interrupting the sticker.

There are discussions to expand the locations of the sidewalk vinyls. According to the marketing team, ideas such as stickers leading up to the playhouse or any other areas around campus are currently being worked on.

Pittsburgh's weather patterns do pose a problem for the clings. With consistently cloudy skies, the windy, rainy and snowy days naturally cause the sidewalk vinyls to deteriorate. Throughout the winter months, piles of snow put the vinyls at a higher risk of ripping or possibly unsticking. The marketing team was prepared for this inevitable challenge. Aside from environmental conditions, they considered that

these would be continuously stepped on by passing pedestrians, therefore creating replacements.

So far, the sidewalk clings have been replaced once. There are plans to replace them again this coming April. The future design plans are currently unknown according to Marlin Collingwood, vice president of enrollment management.

"We did some pictures for social media, but the real media aspect to this is that maybe when people see them and take a picture, we might be tagged on social media," Collingwood said.

The general part, according to Collingwood, is to make people realize that as they walk on the sidewalks they can say, "hey, I'm on campus."

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'Burgh Bites

Burgh Bites: Mad Chicken, not mid chicken

Rating:

Carson Folio
Editor-Elect

Cassandra fell sick this week so she asked Carson to write Burgh Bites.

It's no secret that Pittsburgh is almost in an oversupply of fried chicken spots that all have very good food. Some are national chains like Raising Canes and The Eagle, while others like CHiKN and Wings and a Prayer are exclusive to Allegheny County.

Mad Chicken may belong to the camp of chains, as it has 20 locations throughout the country, but any Downtown eats that aren't just Jimmy John's or Arby's are worth a try.

From the start, Mad Chicken is one of the few places besides Genoa Pizza close to campus that stays open late. While much of Downtown and the rest of Pittsburgh – besides Southside's East Carson Street – seems to go to bed at 8 p.m., Mad Chicken is open until 2 a.m.

Granted, it's not as close to campus as Genoa's. However, it's a difference of maybe five minutes of walking – three if you walk fast.

If you like high quality

chicken that isn't dry and won't break the bank, then maybe you should try running to Mad Chicken – this isn't your mom's boiled chicken.

Starting off with the sides, you have a ton to choose from, whether it's waffle fries, mac and cheese or even rice, which is not a common find at most fried chicken spots in the city.

The waffle fries look delicious as soon as you get them and smell just like well-made potato fries should smell. The fries taste pretty good, but even as a basic side dish at \$3.99, it could be done better. Unlike their chicken, these waffle fries were a bit drier than one may expect and didn't have the craziest, most mind-blowing flavor ever.

However, they still taste good enough to be enjoyable and are quite crispy. Don't expect much seasoning, as they're just covered with a pinch of salt. There were at least eight ketchup packets in the bag of food though, so at least they give you something to try and add onto the flavor. It is important to note that the waffle fries are the cheapest side dish on the menu.

There are a lot of options for potential main



Carson Folio | The Globe

The "Mad Fire" sandwich from Mad Chicken on Liberty Avenue sits inside a styrofoam box on a table.

courses at Mad Chicken, such as sandwiches, bowls, wraps and tenders. For the sake of this review, a sandwich and a bowl were chosen. According to the person at the order counter, the "Mad Fries" bowl and the "Mad Classic" sandwich are two of the most popular items at this location.

The sandwich of choice this time around is the "Mad Fire" sandwich. At \$11.99, it's supposed to be one of the biggest but also one of the spiciest on the menu. It was big in size but not in spice. It took a while to even be able to eat the toppings on the sandwich because it was so overloaded with chicken – the problem of the top bun continuously being pushed further back until the contents of the sandwich fell out was all too real.

Mad Chicken's menu proudly states that all the chicken they serve is non-GMO and all natural, which shows. The meat is white but not dry and juicy, but not slimy. The skin is rather crispy but not to the point where it is reminiscent of Nashville-style chicken. You will surely get a mouth-

ful of these tenders even when eating a sandwich, so perhaps it's not all bad that there are so many.

Sadly, the bread is the worst part of the sandwich. It's not inedible or horrible but it lacks flavor and is solely to blame for everything falling out of the sandwich; the strength of the bread just isn't there.

While the tenders on the sandwich are great, they don't have much on them besides melted cheese and what looks like a little bit of pepper. Once you finally get to the toppings and the "mad fire" sauce, the taste is decent but underwhelming. It is very surprising that the Mad Fire sandwich is advertised as their spiciest when it had almost no spice whatsoever – no "fire" to speak of. This is basically just a well-made regular chicken sandwich grossly overhyped by its namesake.

Unlike the Mad Fire sandwich, the "Mad and Cheese" was a maddening success on almost every count. At \$11.99, you get to choose which sauce to drizzle onto the pieces of chicken and mac and cheese. Their "Mad Chipotle" sauce

pairs very well with this option. The chicken on its own is just as good as in the sandwich, except this time the sauce drizzles and the texture from both the chicken and mac and cheese work together nicely.

The Mad Chipotle sauce has a bit of a spicy kick to it unlike the Mad Fire sauce, as this has noticeable heat. While the chicken and mac and cheese go together well, the mac and cheese on its own tastes almost exactly like the kind you can get at Kickin' Chicken at the Point Café – very gooey cheese but still tasty regardless. The sauce you choose may ultimately overpower the chicken and mac and cheese flavor, but the texture combination alone is good enough.

While you have plenty of fried chicken spots to check out in Pittsburgh or right outside Downtown, Mad Chicken is definitely worth checking out and saving money compared to the other options.

Carson Folio
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Carson Folio | The Globe

The "Mad and Cheese" bowl from Mad Chicken sits on a table, uneaten.

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Pioneer Public: Alt rapper R1 Official

Michael Klug
Co-Opinions Editor

At Point Park, multiple students and instructors are involved in the music scene. Richard Nartey Jr., who goes by his stage name “R1 Official,” is one of many students who has taken up a lifestyle in music.

As an alternative hip-hop artist, singer and songwriter who grew up in Ambridge, Nartey spent his formative years dedicating himself to creating music with his cousin, who goes by the name of “Young Whitz.” In his family, music wasn’t something normal to create.

“It wasn’t until seeing my family [who] did art and everything where I was like ‘let me find another way to articulate myself,’ and music was always something that I just slowly started noticing that I was developing in,” Nartey said.

Nartey said he realized it when he started playing the piano, experimenting with guitar, and playing the flutophone in front of his classmates in elementary school.

His biggest inspiration in his career has always been his grandmother.

“When I first started making music eight years ago, she was the first person to believe in me,” Nartey said.

Nobody in his family knew that he and his cousin made music until his grandmother told the whole family how good they were at it.

“That always stuck with me, what she said. And even though she’s not here anymore, after me improving and going through all this work, if she believed in me when I was just starting off, she would be very happy

with how far I came now,” Nartey said.

Nartey also had one of his songs, “Top G,” reacted to by American rapper DDG, who has over 1 billion streams on Spotify. Nartey also collaborated with viral TikTok artists “SOLOCELO” and “lilbenz.”

Nartey’s mission is to inspire and uplift others through his music.

“I create songs that connect with people going through tough times, uplifting them with the strength and motivation to overcome depression, heartbreak, anxiety and trauma,” Nartey said. “By singing about life experiences and creating beautiful melodies, I strive to create connection and unity among listeners, reminding them that they are not alone in their struggles.”

Some of Nartey’s musical inspirations include A Boogie Wit da Hoodie, Juice WRLD and DDG.

Nartey’s favorite song to create was “I’m OK,” which is about his childhood and how everyone is growing up.

“Things change, people change; even [during] Covid, people changed,” Nartey said. “‘I’m OK’ is basically just about how we all lost our way and just reminiscing on the simple times.”

He also performed at Village Park in 2022 when he was involved with Pioneer Records, Point Park’s record label.

“It was an amazing experience, being able to see how the crowd engaged with my music,” Nartey said. “I remember I told everybody to ‘pull their flashlights out’ and everybody was waving their flashlights as I was singing some of my favorite songs, like ‘No Dream Girl.’”



A scene from the music video of “No Dream Girl,” a song made by Nartey Jr. posted on Aug. 22, 2022. Submitted by Richard Nartey Jr.

Nartey said “No Dream Girl” is a song about a girl from his dreams that he brought to life and made into a music video.

“I haven’t done [Pioneer Records] in the current time, but I really enjoyed it in the past,” Nartey said.

In the future, Nartey sees himself as a full-time artist.

“My vision is to perform more local shows in Pittsburgh, establishing a strong presence and growing a loyal fan base locally,” Nartey said.

As Nartey continues to push forward in the music industry, he remains proactive in creating connections and making his mark among big-name artists. His goal is to gain the attention of industry figures, showcasing to his viewers that “anything is possible when you love what you do.”



Richard Nartey Jr. stands at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Wood Street in the middle of downtown Pittsburgh near Point Park University. Submitted by Richard Nartey Jr.

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Honors Fall Forum presents student projects

Carson Folio
Editor-elect

If you’re in the honors program, each year you get a chance to present research on a project that you feel passionate about and relates to your major to an audience of like-minded students and staff who are willing to check out what you’ve created.

The annual Fall Forum took place on Dec. 6. Each year, the forum features posters created by honors students that relate to their major and are something the students are interested in. Anyone ranging from first-year students to seniors can submit a poster to be showcased.

After the poster-viewing session is over, students and staff can then watch senior honors students present their honors capstone projects in the JVH auditorium, which are a requirement for the Honors 499 class.

Evelyn Andrews, a senior history major, made her poster on the religions that could be found in the Inca and Aztec civilizations. Andrews said that she decided to take on this type of research because religion was prominent in both societies.

With her research, Andrews said that the Inca seemed to have a bigger focus on community and keeping people together, whereas the Aztecs were focused mostly on war and battle. The poster that Andrews made included details about her findings presented like a research paper except with pictures and colorful visual elements.

She said her favorite part of her findings was that



Honors students present their posters to students and staff walking through the Lawrence Hall Lobby. Carson Folio | The Globe

religion seemed to be the reason for both civilizations separate demise.

Like several other students present at the poster session, this was Andrew’s first time presenting for people and not just being among those walking through and observing other’s work. The majors of students that presented ranged from political science, journalism to creative writing. Multiple students with history majors presented as well.

Kyle Maclaughlin, a senior political science major and president of SGA, made a poster about private security companies being used as military contractors. His poster featured specific instances of where these security companies are stationed as well as general defense

topics, such as the Budget Control Act of 2011, which Maclaughlin said was in response to U.S actions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

After the poster viewing session, spectators were encouraged to go to the JVH auditorium to watch senior honors students present their honors capstone projects. Most projects were a version of a capstone project that they had created for their majors with an additional element to qualify it as an honors project, such as additional research or incorporating their specific major to a project required for a school, such as the school of business.

Each capstone presentation had visual elements and the student talking about the steps they took for their project and why

they decided to take on the project they did. The presentations were divided into four one-hour long blocks where all the students who presented during their given block held a discussion with each other about their projects.

Sydney Frencho, a cinema production major with a minor in photography, made her capstone presentation about the process of combing her majors by explaining the creation of her Production 4 (P4) thesis film “More Than You Can Chew” and taking behind the scenes photographs of the filmmaking process with an analog camera.

Frencho said that the photos she took were used to promote the film on IndieGoGo, a crowdfunding platform where she raised

money for the film. Frencho explained the development process of the photos which involved soaking the undeveloped rolls into lukewarm water, exposing the roll to several chemicals and agitating it every five to 30 seconds for nine minutes and 45 seconds.

As for the honors portion of their capstone project, she said that it was an inspiring experience to look back on what was happening during the filmmaking process.

“This project truly made me realize that I need to be present and in the moment more,” Frencho said. “A lot of the times on set I’m just lost in the chaos and by the time I get home, I don’t even remember what happened and I don’t think I appreciated the time on set.”

Michael Soto, the former Provost, was present during the first presentation block and talked about the purpose of capstone projects.

“One of the goals of the capstone course is to reorient the individual student to, per his prior course work, hopefully allow students to gain insight about what they increasingly learn,” Soto said. He then asked the presenters if their capstones shed light on their previous experiences at the university.

The honors program also hosts a similar forum session during the spring semester which takes place in April. The exact date for the spring forum has not yet been announced.

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P4 Production: 'The Groundskeeper'

Michael Klug
Co-Opinions Editor

"The Groundskeeper," a Gothic Horror short film directed by Gabriel Hoover and edited by Asher Gideon, is a film that takes inspiration from George Romero's "Night of the Living Dead," Sam Raimi's "Evil Dead" and Michele Soavi's "Cemetery Man."

The film follows Nick, a petty thief played by Brian Dzuban, who starts working at a graveyard with the sole intention of stealing a precious necklace from the recently-deceased Edith Parks, played by Stacia Paglieri.

Nick is introduced to his mentor, Sean, "The Groundskeeper," played by John Iwanonkiw, and is shown the ropes around Oakmont cemetery.

Nick steals the necklace, leading to the dead waking up and rising from their graves, and he and his mentor must put everything back to normal before it's too late.

"This is Brian's first time acting in a film and John has been in many Point Park productions and an extra in many feature films," Hoover said.

Hoover also said the film's story is about respecting life.

Along with Hoover and Gideon, the film has an extensive crew of up to 30 people.

"It takes a strong team of many talented people to organize a film like this," Hoover said. "The team consisted of a lot of Point Park Alumni, some students from the Tom Savini School of Makeup and many first-time filmmakers as well."

"Everyone was in it 100% and I can't be more thankful for that."

The film also started fundraising on Indiegogo in the summer and raised around its budget of \$10,000.

"We did great fundraising and we're thankful for everyone who contributed," Hoover said.

Initial photography of the film is complete and is currently in the post-production process of being edited.

"We shot for six full days throughout October and into November," Hoover said. "We'll spend the next



Title card for the film, "The Groundskeeper," created by senior cinema production and cinema arts majors.

Submitted by Asher Gideon



Cast and crew discuss their plans during the production of the Groundskeeper while on set.

Submitted by Asher Gideon

few months getting the cut right and polishing up the sound and color."

The production also underwent several minor issues on set.

"We shot in a remote field out in the middle of Somerset, so the nights got very cold," Hoover said. "It rained on us twice and it was frequently at freezing temperatures, and on the coldest nights, all the gear would be covered in ice."

One of the other issues that the production faced was the night-time shooting.

"Another difficult part of our set was that the film takes place almost entirely at night, [which] required us to shoot very late at night," Hoover said. "Shoots are almost always 12 hours long, but unfortunately sometimes they go longer than that."

"We made it through,



Director Gabriel Hoover speaks to an actor inside the vehicle.

Submitted by Asher Gideon

and we did an amazing job at the end of the day," Hoover said. "I'm proud of my crew."

"The Groundskeeper" will be shown at the P4 Film Showcase on April 24 at PNC Theater.

"Come and see all the

P4s, come and tell your friends and family," Hoover said. "There's nothing more rewarding than getting to show your film to an audience, so bring as many people as possible."

For behind the scenes photos and promotional

content for the film, follow "The Groundskeeper" on Instagram @groundskeeperfilm.

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Peyton's 2024 year-in-review book recap

Peyton Martin
Co-News Editor

With the start of the new year, I want to reflect on some of my favorite reads of 2024 that I haven't had the chance to review yet.

Powerless by Lauren Roberts

"Powerless" is the first book in a young adult trilogy that follows the main character Paedyn Gray. Gray's greatest secret is that she is powerless, which is a death sentence in her kingdom. After she saves the prince, she is forced to partake in deadly trials that could prove even more fatal if her secret is discovered.

"Powerless" is a perfect book for someone looking for a romance novel in a fantasy setting. The enemies to lovers trope in this story actually feel like enemies becoming lovers, especially compared to other books where that isn't the case. Additionally, the banter between the characters is very well written and funny in a

perfect way.

The romance isn't the only great thing about the book; the trials and tribulations create incredible suspense that kept me on the edge of my seat till the very last page.

These qualities carried into the second book in the series, "Reckless." The biggest issue with this series is waiting for the final book to come out in April of 2025.

Overall, if you love "The Hunger Games" or "Red Queen" series, you'll likely fall in love with the "Powerless" series too.

Assistant to the Villian by Nicole Maehrer

This book is the first book in the series that follows Evie Sage, who just lost her job. Shortly after she runs into a character known as the Villian while in the woods near her village. After they are chased the whole way to the Villian's home, he offers her a job to work for him. She was out of time and out of money, so she took the offer.

The humor in this book is one of the things that drew me in. It was incredibly funny and lighthearted, but it also had its serious moments too. It was the perfect mix.

The character dynamics and developments also fit in perfectly. Especially the relationship between coworkers Evie and Becky. Evie and Becky started off as average rival coworkers. However, as the story continues the two of them end up having a great friendship despite everything. I really enjoyed watching their dynamic throughout the series.

I simply couldn't get enough off this book. If you are looking for a humorous, fantasy romance I highly recommend the "Assistant to the Villian" series.

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

"The Cruel Prince" is the first book in the Folk of Air series. The series is a young adult fantasy novel following the main character, Jude Duarte. Jude is a

mortal girl stuck in the fairy realm with her sisters after her parents are murdered. Jude adapts to survive, but as time passes, she wants more than to just survive.

A big issue when I started reading this series is that it was marketed as an enemies to lovers romance, but that isn't a big part of the plot. The book is more of political fantasy with a romance subplot. This made it a bit difficult to enjoy this book in the beginning, but as the book continued, it kept me coming back for more.

With that aside, I really enjoyed the book. It was well written, and as the series progressed it continued to get better and better. The twists and turns in the plot were addicting. Additionally, Jude's character development was amazing. It was refreshing to have a female main character be morally grey.

Despite not being a romance, "The Cruel Prince" is an incredible story for any fantasy reader.

The Agathas by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson

This book is a murder mystery where two girls, Alice Ogilvie and Iris Adams, create an unlikely pair who work together to solve the case.

I started this book with no real expectations because I was reading it for a book club, but I was pleasantly surprised. Although the book makes plenty of references to famous writer Agatha Christie, which can feel annoying at times, the book is otherwise amazing.

The book pulled me in from the very first page and didn't let go until I finished reading it. There were so many clever surprises and curveballs that kept me guessing until the end.

If you like murder mysteries and Agatha Christie, I highly recommend you check out this book.

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‘New Year, New Me’ needs to go

Robert Fornataro
Features and A&E Editor

As we return to school, we welcome ourselves not only back to campus but also to a whole new year. And with a new year comes the many promises and wishes we tell ourselves we will complete before this new year ends.

The phrase, “New Year, New Me,” has been around for a long time. It’s a catchphrase that many know and is probably something you planned for yourself. But if I’m being honest, I don’t like this phrase.

See, the idea of thinking that we can wake up on January 1st as brand-new people just doesn’t sit right with me. I mean, think about it for a second: how many of us have actually felt like we

were starting fresh?

If you’re anything like me, you probably did not wake up in the new year with a brand-new personality or new ability to control old habits that you want to quit.

The truth is, you’re still you. The same old you. And that is not a bad thing.

Here’s the thing: growth doesn’t mean fully erasing who you were last year. We don’t get the luxury of having a “factory reset” button every January. Instead, growth is personal and true to who you are as a person.

Every new year is where you learn new things about yourself. It’s when some parts of you change, when some stay the same and when some get discovered as you grow.

The past year, no matter how messy or challenging it

was for you, gave you something valuable.

Experiences. Lessons. Stories.

These aspects of our past don’t get to just disappear when the calendar changes but stay a part of you as you age and learn more about yourself and who you are as a person.

But for some reason, the “New Year, New Me” phrase makes it sound like we were supposed to leave all of that in the past like the person we were last year wasn’t good enough.

This is where I think this phrase gets it wrong.

Sure, we can aim to be better. We can set goals and make improvements, like drinking more water, procrastinating less, or stuff like that. But none of that means we are becoming new peo-

ple. It just means that we are learning and growing into better versions of ourselves.

So, I don’t think that we should treat January as a brand-new start. It just isn’t realistic; change doesn’t happen like that. Growth is a gradual process.

True growth is about stumbling and falling down from time to time, figuring out these things along the way and giving yourself credit for even the smallest steps forward.

This is why I think the “New Year, New Me” phrase misses the point. This phrase focuses so much on being “new” that it forgets to celebrate everything we’ve accomplished already and who we already have become.

Who says that the person you were in 2024 isn’t worthy of going into 2025?

Sure, you might have things you want to work on, but don’t we all? That doesn’t mean you need to completely reinvent yourself.

So, this year, I’m saying that I am not striving for a “New Year, New Me.” I’m not ditching the person I was in 2023 or 2024 like they aren’t worthy of being in the new year.

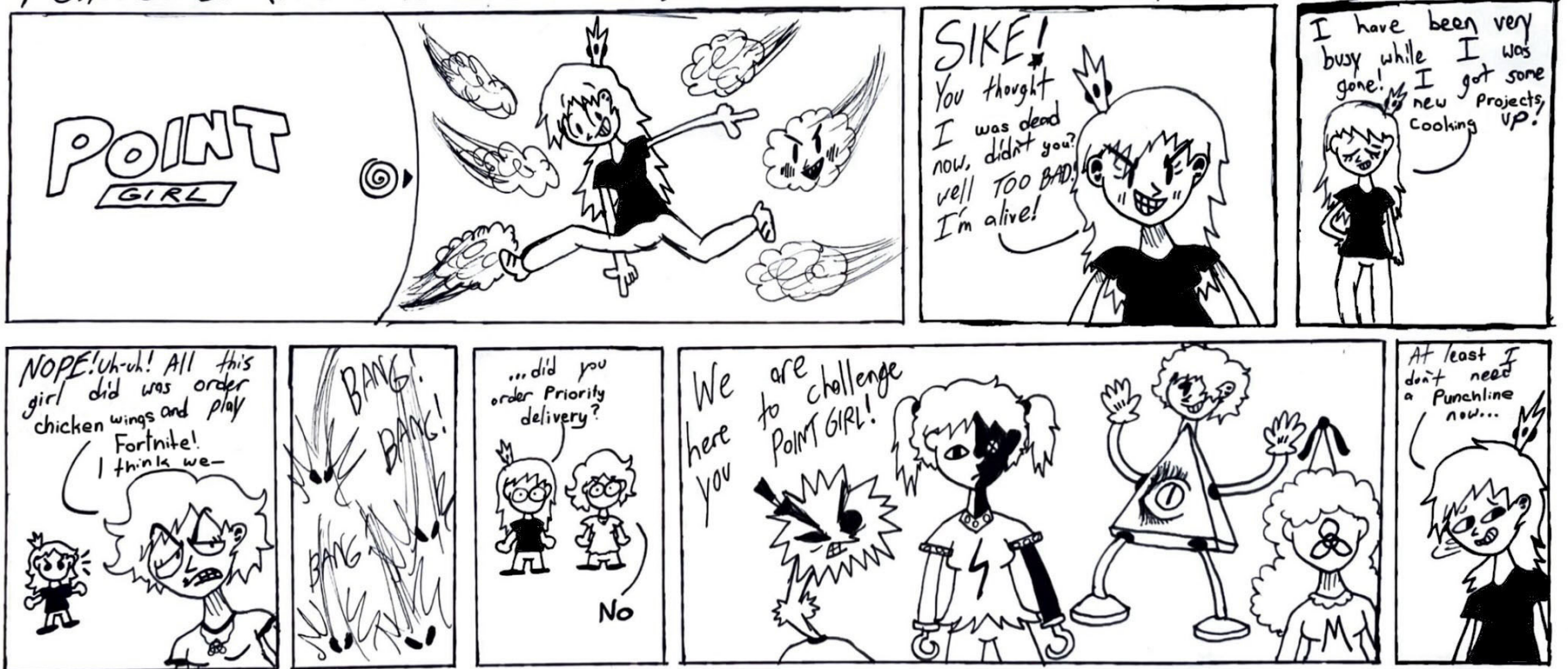
Instead, I am carrying that version of me into 2025. I am taking everything I have learned, everything I have survived and everything I have accomplished, no matter how big or small the accomplishment was.

Because, really, who needs a “new me” when we are all already growing into something wonderful.

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POINTGIRL (PPU TOURNAMENT ARC 1)

by Adrian Y Lozano-Rea



Spiritual wellness needs attention

August Stephens
Opinions Editor

As a senior student, there have been numerous expected and unexpected changes throughout my time in college. Some could be defined as their own “you had to be there” moments, but others are more so disappointing for the student body to experience as a whole. The sad departure of Reverend Jennifer McCurry from the university has prevented students of different religious or spiritual practices from building a community with one another.

In a time of stress and potential crisis for many folks, spiritual health can be pivotal in allowing students a healthier way to process their emotions and simply exist. The ability to exist without distraction nowadays seems impossible, and is needed now more than ever.

The university has the responsibility to offer more than a meditation room to students. To better flesh out their mental health resources, the school should focus on providing a trauma-informed professional with interdenominational spiritual experience, hosting grounding circles, organizing nature field trips and supporting more diverse religious representation.

A notable deficit of representation can be seen through the lack of pagan or witchcraft-centered organizations through Student Life. Even as a non-denominational and private university, there are individuals who practice eclec-

tic or pagan practices in their own spirituality or religion.

Students deserve for holidays such as Samhain, Yule, Imbolc and Ostara to also be celebrated publicly, as these also coincide during the school year— not to mention they are the foundations of holidays in Christian denominations.

Now more than ever, students need the option to proudly be themselves out in the open. and with resources of spiritual health and wellness depleted, this limits the opportunities for a thriving atmosphere of interpersonal connections in the campus community.

Simple opportunities to grab a cup of coffee, tea and a snack can be enough to be seen and feel seen. As college students, this may be the first time people are exploring what their experience as a person who does or does not practice any faith is— and what that looks like for them.

Point Park should reaffirm their commitment to students’ spiritual health and wellness. Any hired professionals— or team of professionals— boundaries need to be fully respected as they navigate supporting thousands of undergraduate and graduate level students.

As a reminder, you are not alone and have the right to practice any spiritual or religious tradition which you feel suits you best. Safe welcome back to campus, Pioneers.

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THE GLOBE'S POINT



Good luck this semester

Who expected a winter wonderland the very first day we returned to classes? Regardless of the weather, we all hope that your winter break was enjoyable.

Maybe you spent most of the break working extra hours at your job to pay tuition or have more money laying around. Or, maybe you were finalizing details on a potential internship if you decided to do one— good luck to those starting a new internship this semester. Some likely spent the winter break not doing much of anything but instead taking the time to relax. All these are understandable and valid.

Now that the break is over, it may seem difficult to get back into the rhythm of going to classes and keeping up with your assignments, because you got used to your schedule during winter break. We get you completely— it’s never easy to just go right back to the college mindset after weeks of being out of it. Don’t be harsh on yourself during the transition back, and remember that if you successfully did everything you needed to last semester there’s almost no reason you can’t do it again.

And, if you’re a first-year student who is going into their second semester of college ever, extra good luck to you. Your fall semester may have been difficult and involved lots of figuring things out about

your schedule, friend group or classes, but that’s the point of the start of this chapter. Your first year of college is mostly the test run. It’s your chance to figure out what works and what doesn’t.

“But, if everything already seems perfect, then keep doing great things.”

The Globe
Editorial Staff

You should trust the choices that you make, because no matter what graduating year you’re in, you are in control of what happens with your education and potential future career. If something isn’t working don’t be afraid to change what you’re doing to try and find what does work.

But, if everything already seems perfect, then keep doing great things. Reach for that 4.0 GPA if you can, join as many student organizations as possible, be socially active with your campus community.

What if you don’t want to push yourself and just want to get by this semes-

ter? For one, you need to take care of yourself. If you’re feeling unwell to the point where you can’t get by, talk to the people in your circle. They are there to support you and so is the university.

We have said it many times before and will continue to say it— the university Health Center has counseling available for students throughout the week if you sign up. Once you get past the hurdle of signing up, you’re set.

What if joining student organizations was a new year’s resolution for you? We’re always open to new people interested in contributing. If you watched what we did last semester with any interest and thought about joining, or if you’re a transfer student that wants to dive headfirst into journalism, now is the time. Show up to our weekly pitch meetings in the Center for Media Innovation (CMI) every Monday at 2:40 p.m. We welcome all new people and will explain everything to you in detail about how to contribute.

Good luck this semester to everyone. May we all get high grades for the hard work we put in and may The Globe continue covering everything important that happens on campus and in Downtown Pittsburgh.

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Men's basketball begins to hit its stride

The Pioneers maintain the hottest streak in the MEC

Brynn Rees
Sports Editor

Point Park men's basketball concluded 2024 with four straight wins to establish the highest win streak in the Mountain East Conference.

The Pioneers' final game of the year resulted in a 118-68 victory against Penn State Shenango on Dec. 20. Four Point Park players closed the night with double-double performances, including Brendan Williams, Rob Keys, Nazareth Fisher and Aidan Anderson. Williams led the team in scoring with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

In December the Pioneers went 4-1, earning MEC wins against West Virginia Wesleyan and Davis & Elkins. This improved the team's conference record to 3-3 to tie for fourth place.

Point Park enters a pivotal week for the conference standings, kicking off the

new year on Wednesday with an MEC matchup versus the Charleston Golden Eagles in Charleston, W. Va., at 7:30 p.m. The Golden Eagles sit above the Pioneers at third place in the conference.

A win for Pioneers on Wednesday would tie them for the third place spot.

Point Park returns home to face West Virginia State on Saturday at 4 p.m. The Pioneers are currently tied with the Yellow Jackets in the MEC standings.

Point Park goes on to play a total of six conference games in January, as the season approaches its halfway point this month. With 16 games remaining, 14 of Point Park's matchups are against MEC opponents.

This season, the Pioneers saw 41.8% field-goal success, which is the second lowest in the conference. The team finds better results from deep, averaging 35.3% from



Brynn Rees | The Globe

Brendan Williams takes a mid-range shot versus West Virginia Wesleyan on Dec. 11 in the CCAC main gym.

the three-point line for the fourth highest average in the MEC.

Point Park locks teams down on the other side of the court, leading the conference in defense with an average

point margin of 11 points. The Pioneers also power over the MEC in rebounds, combining for 53.8 rebounds per game and 645 total rebounds.

Fisher reigns as Point Park's key piece in the paint,

leading the MEC in individual rebounds with 11.8 boards per game. Freshman Aiden Miller seizes the conference's second place spot with 9.9 rebounds per game.

Other conference leaders include point guard Kaden Warner, who reigns as Point Park's leading scorer and the MEC's seventh-best scorer with 17.5 points per game. Warner sat out of the Penn St. Shenango game, leaving backup point guard Keys to start.

The Pioneers maintain an 8-4 record overall.

This week's matchups can be streamed for free on mountaineast.tv. Home games are free for Point Park students with a student ID. Tipoff on Saturday is at 4 p.m.



Brynn Rees | The Globe

Nazareth Fisher and Nathaniel Van huddle with the team in December.



Brynn Rees | The Globe

The Pioneers head to the locker room during halftime on Dec. 11.

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MEC STANDINGS

The Mountain East Conference standings as of Tuesday evening are below as shown. After a cancellation on Monday, conference play resumes on Wednesday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Overall	PCT	Conf.	Streak
Fairmont State	11-1	.917	6-0	W2
West Liberty	11-1	.917	5-0	L1
Charleston	6-5	.545	4-2	W1
Point Park	8-4	.667	3-3	W4
West Virginia State	5-6	.455	3-3	L2
Glenville State	7-5	.583	2-3	W3
Davis & Elkins	5-7	.417	2-3	L3
Concord	3-6	.333	2-3	L2
Frostburg State	4-8	.333	2-4	W1
Wheeling	6-6	.500	1-4	W2
West Virginia Wesleyan	2-9	.182	0-5	L1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	Overall	PCT	Conf.	Streak
West Virginia Wesleyan	9-1	.900	5-0	W7
Fairmont State	9-3	.750	4-2	W1
Frostburg State	8-4	.667	4-2	W1
Glenville State	8-4	.667	3-2	L1
Wheeling	6-6	.500	3-2	L2
West Liberty	5-6	.455	3-2	W1
Concord	5-7	.417	2-3	W1
West Virginia State	5-5	.500	2-4	L5
Charleston	5-7	.417	2-4	W3
Davis & Elkins	1-10	.091	1-4	L1
Point Park	2-9	.182	1-5	L3

Point Park '25 ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

Women's Basketball

WEDNESDAY 5:30PM
AT CHARLESTON (WV)

Men's Basketball

WEDNESDAY 7:30PM
AT CHARLESTON (WV)

Women's Basketball

SATURDAY 2:00PM
VS. WEST VIRGINIA STATE

Men's Basketball

SATURDAY 4:00PM
VS. WEST VIRGINIA STATE