Digital Art Comes to Pace

Digital art has found a home at Pace. This past spring, the newly inaugurated Pace Digital Gallery featured its first exhibition, “Digital Downtown.” The gallery, located at 163 William Street and open to the public, is a collaboration between Dyson College’s fine arts department and the School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

“The fine arts department was approached by Frank Marchese, professor of computer science, to help organize the first university gallery dedicated to showing digital art. ‘Digital Downtown’ was associated with the New York Digital Salon’s tenth annual celebration, but we intend to continue presenting independent exhibitions each semester in the gallery,” explains Fine Arts Professor Jillian Mcdonald. Professors Mcdonald and Juliet Ann Martin, both digital artists, co-curated the exhibit with Professor Marchese and the help of students from both departments.

Digital art has found a home at Pace. This past spring, the newly inaugurated Pace Digital Gallery featured its first exhibition, “Digital Downtown.” The gallery, located at 163 William Street and open to the public, is a collaboration between Dyson College’s fine arts department and the School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

“The fine arts department was approached by Frank Marchese, professor of computer science, to help organize the first university gallery dedicated to showing digital art. ‘Digital Downtown’ was associated with the New York Digital Salon’s tenth annual celebration, but we intend to continue presenting independent exhibitions each semester in the gallery,” explains Fine Arts Professor Jillian Mcdonald. Professors Mcdonald and Juliet Ann Martin, both digital artists, co-curated the exhibit with Professor Marchese and the help of students from both departments.

Fine Arts Chair John Mulgrew notes, “The department encourages cross-disciplinary projects. The integration of new forms and technologies with our program in fine arts is vital to the education of students in our current visual culture.”

This first exhibit included not only digital art in the form of prints, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and interactive Web pages, but also a panel discussion with the featured artists. Visit www.pace.edu/digitalgallery to view a sample of the artists’ work.

Pace students designed the promotional brochure and Web site for the gallery and helped organize the reception and installation of the artwork. “This is an exciting example of how our students are engaged in the practical application of their education,” says Professor Mcdonald. “The gallery provides a wonderful opportunity for continued collaboration among Pace students and faculty, the global art community, and New York City’s business and residential communities.”

Professor Martin agrees. “I see one of the prime objectives of this gallery being to expose students and the community to the grace and beauty that can be contained in digital art. We hope this will be accomplished with challenging and provocative exhibits that explore where computer science and art come together.”

According to Professor Marchese, the convergence of art and programming has created demand for people who combine technical and artistic expertise, even if not all of them develop careers in the fine arts. “We want the gallery to be a nexus for the latest ideas in all these fields,” he says.

Fine arts is building its computer art program as well, working to add new courses in Web production, video editing, and computer animation. “It’s a very exciting time to be at Pace and be a part of a growing department,” says Professor Mcdonald. “We’re looking forward to providing additional digital art exhibits that will show students’ work and explore the latest in creative digital art forms from around the world, as well as potentially hosting lectures, performances, panel discussions, and much more.”

Look for announcements about upcoming Pace Digital Gallery shows at www.pace.edu.
Haskins Laboratories Research Targets Parasites

**NIH grant supports continued research**

Most of us can fight off an invasion by a parasite. But people who are immunocompromised, such as those with AIDS, suffer devastating gastrointestinal or other illnesses because they are unable to fight off these tiny organisms. But now a research program run by Pace’s Haskins Laboratories and Albert Einstein College of Medicine could give those sufferers hope.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the $1.7-million, five-year project, “Polyamine Inhibitors Targeting Microsporidia,” enables scientists to continue their research, which began in 1994. Haskins Laboratories, housed at Dyson College’s New York City campus, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in the Bronx, aim to develop effective drugs that can halt the Microsporidia parasite’s ability to function.

“Existing drugs for human disease are not completely effective or have unwanted side effects. We plan to develop analogues that will lead us to a drug that is both nontoxic to the patient and successfully attacks the parasite,” says Dr. Cyrus Bacchi, director and principal investigator of this research at Haskins.

“Dr. Wittner is the top parasitologist, and we at Haskins are experts in the biochemistry of these parasites. This collaborative research project draws upon the expertise of both institutions as we seek to develop a new treatment method,” explains Dr. Bacchi. Pace’s Dr. Nigel Yarlett, professor of chemistry, is also an investigator on the project.

Adds Dr. Bacchi, “This group of parasites is found in fish that are farmed for human consumption, so an effective drug treatment would be beneficial on an economic scale as well.”

The Haskins Laboratories engages in professional-level research—primarily in the nutrition, biochemistry, and pharmacology of protozoan parasites—which has probable applications in medicine, agriculture, and biochemistry. This research has led to the development of a novel treatment for the African Sleeping Sickness. The lab’s other research projects target trichomoniasis, which is sexually transmitted, and Cryptosporidia, which causes gastrointestinal disease. These research projects provide Dyson science majors opportunities to participate in joint research with faculty and gain valuable experience normally found at the graduate level.

---

Dialogue Continues on 9/11 Aftermath

The ongoing war on terrorism and the recent war in Iraq were the focus of the second annual, one-week seminar “Democracy at a Critical Juncture.” Attended by 45 students and four faculty members from more than a dozen American universities, the seminar also drew five students from Tel Aviv University in Israel.

“The 9/11 terrorist attacks disrupted the world order—religiously, politically, economically, and socially,” says Dr. Christopher Malone, professor of political science. “The seminar provided students with a variety of perspectives with which to comprehend these changes, so that they could arrive at their own conclusion about what 9/11 means for the future. I see this as part of Pace’s mission of providing students a forum within which to analyze and discuss the big issues of the day.”

The highlight of the week was C-SPAN coverage of a roundtable discussion on the recently released book The Iraq War Reader, edited by Micah Sifry and Christopher Cerf. The lively roundtable, which was moderated by Sifry and Cerf, drew about 300 spectators, including notable authors Christopher Hitchens, Chris Toensing, and Jonathan Schell, and Egyptian human rights activist, Dr. Saad Ibrahim.

“We plan to develop analogues that will lead us to a drug that is nontoxic...and successfully attacks the parasite.”

“The seminar provided students with a variety of perspectives...so that they could arrive at their own conclusion about what 9/11 means for the future.”

Participants heard the official views of the United States government and the United Nations during site visits to the US Mission to the UN and the UN. At the US Embassy, an assistant to the US Ambassador to the UN discussed how the tension over the vote to go to war played out in the Security Council. At the UN, experts on counterterrorism explained the worldwide effort underway to end terrorist attacks across the globe.

Notable speakers included Dr. Benjamin Barber, author of Jihad vs. McWorld; Dr. Rania Masri, director of Southern Peace Research and Education Center; and Pace’s own Dr. Reza Afshari, history department, and Dr. Larry Hundersmarck, philosophy and religious studies department.

Dr. Gregory Julian and Dr. Christopher Malone, faculty members in the Political Science Department, coordinated the seminar. They plan on conducting the 9/11 seminar next year and beyond. “9/11 was an event, but it is also a process in the transformation of the world,” says Dr. Malone. “We plan to hold the seminar as long as 9/11 continues to reshape American foreign policy.”
Publishing Program Scholarship Fund Grows

David Pecker, CEO and president of American Media, Inc., is a most important benefactor of the Master of Science in Publishing Program. This year he increased his personal donation to the David Pecker Scholarship, established in 2001, from $25,000 to $50,000. That, coupled with another $25,000 scholarship donation from American Media, Inc., brought his total annual contributions in 2003 to $75,000.

In fact, Mr. Pecker is such a staunch supporter of the program that he bequeathed his contributions in his will. “I wanted the scholarship to continue after I’m gone, to support future publishing executives,” he explains.

According to Professor Raskin, director of the publishing program, “Our goal is to provide a broad education in all aspects of the publishing business, which enables professionals in the field to move to other areas in their organization. Within a year or two, our program provides students a thorough knowledge of book, magazine, and newspaper publishing, as well as the latest technology.”

“I am a major supporter of Professor Raskin and his vision of the program, which I endorse,” says Mr. Pecker.

Mr. Pecker, a Pace graduate and a long-standing supporter of the publishing program, has offered many of the MS in Publishing students an opportunity to experience working in the industry firsthand by providing numerous internships for them in both the New York and Boca Raton, Florida, offices of American Media, Inc. This summer seven students worked as interns for AMI, many in Florida, with all-expense-paid positions.

“The quality of the Pace students is excellent, and they will succeed in publishing. I hope it is with my company,” adds Mr. Pecker.

“David Pecker is a dedicated professional who realizes that by providing internships, students obtain valuable practical experience crucial to a successful career,” observes Professor Raskin. “And his input into the program assures that the curriculum is relevant and responsive to the rapidly changing demands of the field—it’s a mutually beneficial relationship.”

Mr. Pecker has also contributed his professional experience and expertise in the form of lectures and seminars on critical publishing issues, and he holds an Honorary Doctorate in Commercial Science from Pace.

“This generous contribution is greatly appreciated by the faculty and students of the program as it affords them many opportunities for growth and development,” says Professor Raskin.

For more information about the program, visit www.pace.edu/dyson/mspub.

Fellowship Awarded to Forensic Science Student

A $5,000 CourtTV Forensic Science Fellowship has been awarded to Taylor Dickerson III, a full-time graduate student of the M.S. in Forensic Science program. Dickerson is president of the Forensic Science Student Organization at Pace and recently completed an internship with the Forensic Evidence Bureau of the Nassau County Police Department. He expects to graduate in May 2004.
A Global Focus: Latin American Studies Grant Broadens Student Learning Opportunities

The Latin American Studies program has received a $71,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. “For students competing in today’s global job environment, this is good news,” says Professor Daniel Greenberg, who codirects the program with Dr. Antonia Garcia-Rodriguez.

“This funding enables us to strengthen the program and broaden its multidisciplinary scope by developing new courses that focus on the environmental, cultural, social, and economic aspects of today’s Latin American societies,” explains Dr. Greenberg, author of the grant. “With these enhancements, students gain skills relevant to a wide variety of professional, diplomatic, technical, and liberal arts careers.”

According to Dr. Greenberg, there has been a noticeable rise in demand for university graduates trained in international trade and management, conversant in Spanish and Portuguese, and sensitive to the cultures, institutional traditions, and political context of our country’s Latin trade and investment partners. “Our program helps students shape an awareness of the concepts of world citizenship and civic competency now desired by U.S. companies and preferred by Latin clients.”

One of the many exciting components of the program includes a service-learning course in which students travel to Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Peru, and Argentina. “These travel courses bring students in touch with third world poverty and provide a deeper understanding of issues such as the environmental impact of globalization,” he adds.

“The program also connects students to valuable internships with the Brazilian and Argentine Consulates in New York City,” notes Dr. Greenberg. Other planned program enhancements include an annual lectureship, a film series, and the strengthening of Pace’s library circulating book collection.

For more information about the program, please contact Dr. Greenberg at dgreenberg2@pace.edu.

"Our program helps students shape an awareness of the concepts of world citizenship and civic competency now desired by U.S. companies and preferred by Latin clients.”