Scientific and Creative Expression

As a scientist, I am occasionally asked, “What is it that makes you people tick?” My response is usually something related to the familiar, “Science is a ‘way of knowing.’” By this I mean that the scientist is an individual who uses a set of specific tools to examine and explain the world. More specifically, as a biologist, I would say that we seek to understand life processes and create predictive models that allow us to account for known biological phenomena. However, having said this, the postmodernist in me will often reveal that I experience a great deal of enjoyment and fulfillment from other “ways of knowing”—other ways in which people seek to understand, explain, and interpret the world that have equal validity to my own chosen “way.”

Related to this, and one of the reasons that I find such pleasure in my current position as acting dean, is that I have the opportunity to work with individuals who have different approaches, interpretations, and models for explaining the world we live in. The Dyson Distinguished Achievement Awards acknowledge and celebrate the broad spectrum of investigative, explanatory, and interpretive styles that form the foundation of the liberal arts.

“New aspects of the event include entertainment provided by both our own performing arts students and students from the Joffrey Ballet School.”

I am particularly pleased with this year’s awards ceremony, the College’s premiere scholarship fund-raiser, which will be held on March 31. At the event, we will be celebrating a range of achievements, talents, and approaches toward explaining and interpreting our world. In keeping with a celebratory feeling, the event will be held at a new venue, the Tribeca Rooftop. New aspects of the event include entertainment provided by both our own performing arts students and students from the Joffrey Ballet School, whose director, Edith D’Addario, is our special guest honoree. Dyson distinguished faculty and alumni, whose profiles you see in this issue, also will be honored. Through this program of entertainment we will explore a range of creative interpretations of our world.

I hope you all will join me in attending this event, which not only celebrates those with significant achievements in the arts and sciences but also serves as an important resource for expanding scholarship opportunities for Dyson students. If you cannot attend, your support of Dyson scholarships for worthy students such as Raquel Florim, profiled in this issue, is welcome and most appreciated. If you wish to make a contribution, please contact Cheryl Delaney in the Dean’s Office at (914) 773-3538 or cdelaney@pace.edu.

Michael H. Roberts, PhD
Acting Dean

Eighth Annual
DYSON DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Benefit Reception
March 31, 2004
The Eighth Annual
Dyson Distinguished
Achievement Awards

For Distinguished Leadership in the Arts

Edith D’Addario
Director, Joffrey Ballet School

Since 1961, Edith D’Addario has overseen the
daily operations of the Joffrey Ballet School. Initially, D’Addario came to the
Joffrey Ballet School as a parent of a young
dancer. Her volunteer work eventually led
to her appointment as executive director by
Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, founders
of the school and company. D’Addario has
been an integral part of the Joffrey’s lead-
ership team that nurtured the nascent institution’s development into the world-class
organization it has become.

Through her careful pairing of faculty and
curriculum, students are prepared for
careers in the competitive world of dance.
Many Joffrey Ballet Company alumni now
direct companies of their own, including
Helgi Tomasson, artistic director of San
Francisco Ballet and William Forsythe,
artistic director of Ballet Frankfurt.

D’Addario continues to direct the school
and maintains the highest expectations from
the students. Together with the faculty, they
create a setting where young dancers can achieve
important professional and artistic goals.

For Distinguished Leadership in Business and Industry

David J. Pecker
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer,
American Media, Inc.

David J. Pecker became chairman, chief
executive officer, and president of American
Media, Inc., in May 1999, when, along with
Evercore Partners, he purchased the company.
American Media, Inc., publishes six of the top
14 best-selling weekly newspaper titles in the
country, including Star Magazine and the
National Enquirer. The company’s holdings also
include Distribution Services Inc. (DSI), the
leading supermarket in-store merchandiser.

In November of 2002, Pecker and AMI
acquired Weider Publications Inc. and its
related properties. It was the latest acquisition
in a 20-year career that has seen Pecker
complete more than $3.6 billion in magazine
transactions. Weider Publications is comprised
of seven magazines, each a leader in their
respective categories of the health and fitness
market, and represents more than 60 years of
brand equity. These properties include Muscle & Fitness, Flex, Muscle & Fitness Hers, Men’s
Fitness, Shape, Fit Pregnancy and Natural Health.
Prior to acquiring American Media, Inc.,
Pecker was president and chief executive officer
of Hachette Filipacchi Magazines.

Dyson Distinguished Alumna

Charles W. Gasparino
Investigative Reporter, The Wall Street Journal

Charles Gasparino, a 1985 graduate of Pace
University, has been a journalist for the past 15
years, specializing in investigative reporting on
business and financial topics. He was an editor
of Pace University’s student newspaper new
morning before earning a master’s degree from
the prestigious journalism school at the
University of Missouri in Columbia, MO.
Since 1995, he has been a senior special writer
for The Wall Street Journal, where he has won
accolades for his coverage of mutual funds,
government financial corruption, and various
financial topics. In 2002, he led The Journal’s
coverage of the Wall Street research scandals
and the Martha Stewart insider trading case,
breaking series of stories on both topics. The
Journal nominated Gasparino’s work for the
2002 Pulitzer Prize in beat reporting, and he
won the New York Press Club award for best
continuing coverage. He is currently writing a
book on Wall Street to be published by Simon & Schuster this year. Gasparino is married to
Virginia Juliano, a publishing executive, and
lives in New York City.

Distinguished Faculty

Janetta Rebold Benton
Professor of Fine Arts

Janetta Rebold Benton is director of the
Pfizerheimer Honors College and professor of
art history, Pleasantville campus. She was edu-
cated at Harvard University, M.D.P.; Brown
University, Ph.D.; George Washington
Profiles


Harold Brown
Professor of Philosophy

Harold Brown is professor of philosophy and religious studies, New York campus. He earned a PhD in philosophy from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research (now New School University) and a BA in English from Temple University. Brown has published and lectured on a variety of topics, from ancient philosophy to critical thinking and pedagogy. He has just finished an article titled “Thinking through Computing,” cowritten with Dr. Christelle Scharff of the School of Computer Science and Information Systems, and is currently working on Plato’s *Gorgias*. Among his most treasured Pace memories include being the eponymous leader of the 1995 class of The Dyson Society of Fellows and chairing the committee that successfully brought the combined major in philosophy and religious studies to the University.

Among Dr. Brown’s interests outside Pace University are his family, including wife Anne, their two children and spouses, and granddaughter Chloe; travel; singing in the local synagogue choir; and working on their late-Victorian house, as a result of which he has become known as the only philosopher-carpetweaver of Summit, NJ.

The Light Fantastic Shines Brightly on the Performing Arts Department

In an exciting new partnership with the Joffrey Ballet School, one of the principal dance schools in the country, the Performing Arts Department is developing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. Students will take their dance classes at the Joffrey and will take academic courses and earn their degree at Pace. “It’s an exciting future and we’re looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with them,” says Performing Arts Chairperson Christopher Thomas.

The new BFA will add significantly to an already growing department. With a more than 50% increase in majors enrolled in the past year alone, the department is bursting at the seams. To accommodate this influx of students, additional space is being rented at the Henry Street Settlement, where Pace students now take dance, voice, and acting classes. “We’re becoming a known and respected program,” observes Professor Thomas, “and the new partnership with the Joffrey will enhance and broaden the degree choices for our students.”

The space at the Henry Street Settlement, located at 466 Grand Street, New York City, includes the Dejur Theater, a landmarked building built in 1917 that has an orchestra pit and seats 350 people. Classes are held in the Abrons Art Center, adjacent to the theater, where an experimental theater, a recital hall, and classrooms equipped with pianos reside. Student-led productions will be put on in the experimental theater. The department’s shows now have four venues: the Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts and the Schaeberle Studio Theater at Pace, the Dejur Theater, and the experimental theater for student-directed work.

In a second new degree program venture, the department is working on a BFA in Musical Theater, in partnership with Broadway Dance. Located on West 57th Street above the Hard Rock Café, Broadway Dance offers courses in ballet, tap, theater dance, and jazz. “We will be able to do dance placement of incoming students who will then take classes at Pace, the Joffrey, or Broadway Dance,” notes Thomas. Also in development are a minor program in dance and a concentration in musical theater.

Rounding out the new initiatives of the department, the BFA in Design/Technical Theater program is being revised for reinstallation. The program, which will be offered on weekends to accommodate working professionals, focuses on set, lighting, and costume design, and the technical aspects of theater production.

“With the additional venues and more productions, we will need additional design and technical support to produce the shows, so it’s natural to re-institute this degree,” explains Thomas. “We will bring in working Broadway designers on a per project basis, rather than teaching the entire semester, which will give students connections to the business and a real-world knowledge of the industry.”

“The expansion and new direction of the performing arts department is a reflection of the many innovative programs that Dyson College is proud to offer to students,” says Acting Dean Michael Roberts. “I urge alumni, faculty, staff, and students to see the high caliber performances our talented students display in any of their productions.”

To see the production season schedule, visit Dyson’s Web page, www.pace.edu/dyson and click on the Dyson Calendar tab.
"I have gotten to do everything, from directing, writing a play, to working backstage and onstage."

"It's been so much fun to be in the theater program," says theater major Raquel Florim. This level of enjoyment characterizes Florim's exuberant attitude and remarkable academic achievements.

In recognition of her impressive 3.89 grade point average, Florim has received the Charles H. Dyson Dean's Achievement Award scholarship annually since her freshman year at Pace. "It has been a big help to me. Without it, it would be tough to attend," she reveals. Yet she quickly adds, "But I don't really focus on my grades—I just do my best for my own satisfaction."

"What I like best about the theater program is that, because it's small, we have many opportunities to work in different types of productions, and play a variety of roles, which helps build our resumes," Florim notes.

Students are exposed to every aspect of theater production and learn all that is entailed in putting on a show. "I have gotten to do everything, from directing, writing a play, to working backstage and onstage," says Florim. "It really prepares us for the practical and professional side of the business. I highly recommend the program for students interested in any aspect of the performing arts."

She adds that her studies at Pace have given her a well-balanced education, something she feels is essential to being a good actor. "We have examined many different acting theories, which has allowed me to customize my own method of acting by adopting parts of different methods that work for me," reflects Florim. "I've learned so many valuable skills in the program, but most important is the ability to see past obstacles and stay focused on the task at hand—basically, to be positive. This has helped me tremendously in both my personal and professional life."

Florim has been in two to four productions each year. "The performance of which I am most proud is as Emily Webb in Our Town last spring, which was an emotionally challenging role."

As far as the future is concerned, Florim says that her ultimate goal is to work in film and theater, but "my dream is to work in classical theater in London."

Florim will graduate in spring 2004. We wish her luck as she pursues her dream.