Internationally renowned art expert Joachim Pissarro — a top curator at the Museum of Modern Art and the great-grandson of famed Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro — is coming to Hunter this fall. Dr. Pissarro will hold the newly created position of Bershad Professor of Art History and Director of the Hunter College Galleries. His appointment was made possible thanks to an extraordinary gift to the Department of Art from Susan V. Bershad, MD ('75) and David J. Bershad.

At Hunter, in addition to his role as a professor in the Art History and Studio Art departments, Pissarro will develop the exhibition and curatorial programs of the Hunter Galleries. A portion of the Bershad gift will be used to support exhibitions at the two galleries.

Pissarro, who until recently was curator at the Museum of Modern Art, in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, will retain an association with MoMA as an adjunct curator.

The distinguished art scholar and author has done extensive research over the years about his famous great-grandfather, including a book that took more than 20 years to complete on more than 1,500 paintings by Camille Pissarro. "I feel like I know him pretty well," he said. "But he's also someone who still surprises me."

Over the past ten years, however, Pissarro has focused his research on the field of contemporary art and this will be the main concentration of his work at Hunter. He came to New York after having held a curatorship of contemporary art at the Yale University Art Gallery, and he has published extensively on post World War II American art, namely on Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg. Last summer, he co-curated the new display of contemporary art at MoMA.
Happenings at Hunter

Brookdale Honors Three New Yorkers

Public relations executive Howard Rubenstein (left), who introduced Muriel Siebert, the first woman to win a seat on the New York Stock Exchange; and Dominic Chianese, best known for his role as Uncle Junior on “The Sopranos,” all received “New Yorkers Forever” awards.

Victor Gottbaum (left), Muriel Siebert and Dominic Chianese received “New Yorkers Forever” awards.

At the gala at the St. Regis on June 14, Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab talked about the importance of Brookdale’s work as growing numbers of American become senior citizens, including such icons as Harrison Ford, Aitana Friedland, and Barbara Streisand — all of whom turn 70 this year. In introducing Gottbaum, Siebert and Chianese, Raab said: “These three illustrious citizens epitomize the vision of our Brookdale Center to promote longevity and healthy aging.”

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The President’s Perspective

F or this issue of At Hunter you can read about all the exciting things happening right now in the College’s Department of Art. There are the highly anticipated arrival of Jorduins Panareo from the Museum of Modern Art. Dr. Panareo will bring his expertise to the classroom as a professor here beginning the fall and she will serve as director of the esteemed Hunter Art Galleries. There is the dramatic news of two separate and extraordinary alumni gifts — from Susan and David Bershad to establish the professorship that Dr. Panareo now holds and from Emily Koons Koenig who will have the department’s Painting Program remain in her honor. And there is news too about some of the wonderful accomplishments of faculty members such as Professor of Art History Emily Brune, who was recently named a CUNY Distinguished Professor for her outstanding work. Hunter College’s Department of Art has a long and storied past, with many prominent names involved in the program over the years. With these latest developments, we begin a dynamic new chapter in that illustrious history at Hunter. One of the best art departments in the nation just got even better.

Success Story

Manhattan Hunter Science High School Graduates Its First Class

I t was the highly anticipated arrival of Jorduins Panareo from the Museum of Modern Art. Dr. Panareo will bring his expertise to the classroom as a professor here beginning the fall and she will serve as director of the esteemed Hunter Art Galleries. There is the dramatic news of two separate and extraordinary alumni gifts — from Susan and David Bershad to establish the professorship that Dr. Panareo now holds and from Emily Koons Koenig who will have the department’s Painting Program remain in her honor. And there is news too about some of the wonderful accomplishments of faculty members such as Professor of Art History Emily Brune, who was recently named a CUNY Distinguished Professor for her outstanding work. Hunter College’s Department of Art has a long and storied past, with many prominent names involved in the program over the years. With these latest developments, we begin a dynamic new chapter in that illustrious history at Hunter. One of the best art departments in the nation just got even better.

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Dr. Erwin Fleissner — the husband of Judith Friedlander, Hunter’s chair of biology and winner of the 2004 City University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Science for his outstanding contributions to science — died May 12 at the age of 70. Fleissner served as dean of science and mathematics from 1987 to 1990, before which he was a professor and director of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. During his tenure, he developed a pipeline of minority scientists by ensuring that underrepresented groups majored and succeeded in the sciences. Fleissner directed the Sloan-Kettering Institute’s Cancer Prevention and Detection Program and the Sloan-Kettering Institute’s Cancer Prevention and Detection Program. He also served as a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Minnesota. Fleissner received the Sloan-Kettering Institute’s Cancer Prevention and Detection Program in 1986, the National Academy of Sciences’ Award in Molecular Biology in 1987, the National Academy of Sciences’ Award in Molecular Biology in 1988, and the National Academy of Sciences’ Award in Molecular Biology in 1989. He was the author of more than 75 scientific research papers. He is survived by his wife, Judith Friedlander, and his daughter, Emily Fleissner. Fleissner is survived by his wife, Judith Friedlander, and his daughter, Emily Fleissner.
A word-winning author Peter Carey, director of the Hunter MFA Creative Writing Program, was featured prominently in New York magazine’s special June issue on fiction and discovering talented new voices.

In a bylined article that led the section, Carey marveled at the dedication of the standout young writing students he works with in the Hunter MFA program and compared their expectations to his own literary struggles when he was starting out in Australia nearly a half-century ago.

“Every Tuesday night I sit in a room at Hunter College with students, and we talk about their work...”

Carey wrote. “And in doing that I am part of a strange New York fantasy that all or some of these twelve people will one day, perhaps near week, perhaps in twenty years, be freaks like me.

“At the same time, we all know it cannot be everybody and sometimes we risk nothing except my sentence,” Carey wrote. “No one will know me as much as anyone else— who that will be.

In the article, he talked about his own beginnings as a writer during the ’60s in his hometown of Bacchus Marsh, Australia. “Writing after work at the kitchen table, I was risking nothing except my sentence,” Carey wrote. “No one knew I was there... as an MFA in creative writing I’d never heard of such a thing.”

He continued that at his students at Hunter today who have opportunities such as the Hunter Fellowship Program, which allows them to work and learn from famous writers such as Salman Rushdie, Richard Price, Tony Morrison, Nathan Englander, Patrick McCarth and McCarth.

But he also pointed out that young writers today are under tremendous pressure to find an agent, sell their work and somehow break through in the competitive market for publishing fiction. “Of all the things I do at Hunter, that seems to be the most important, to break that line, break gender between the world and the kitchen table,” he wrote.

Carey said he constantly stresses to young writers in the MFA program that the business of writing should be about the sentence, the story, the language. “My Hunter students do not ask when the agents will call,” he says. “They know that, if they want, they can write for themselves. Everything else will follow.”

The Hunter MFA Creative Writing Program is a full-time, two-year course of instruction which offers the opportunity to work with and learn from famous writers such as Jonathan Franzen and Paula Navarrete, the college’s new Hunter Fellowship Program, established by Roger and Susan Sanger (’55), began pairing selected MFA students with famous writers as mentors.

Ten Questions For...
Peter Carey, Director of MFA Program in Creative Writing

A part of a regular series in All Hunter spotlighting members of the Hunter College faculty, Peter Carey answers 10 questions that we put to him:

What book has inspired you the most in your writing career? If there was only one book, I could not have been a writer. There have been many fine instance: Faulkner’s A Man Died, L’Age Des Lave, while I was 20; Vonnegut’s Slaughterhouse-Five, when I was 25; Dhal’s Tie-Down, when I was 30; Tintori Shadr, when I was 40; Strindberg’s Miss Julie at Hunter, when I was 50; Tintori Shadr, when I was 60. But perhaps the student who traveled the furthest and overcame the most insurmountable odds to get a Hunter diploma was Suman Pradhan. Pradhan comes from a tiny village in Nepal near Mount Everest, which was not to be a help for him to get a proper education.

What's your favorite movie? Oscar and Lucinda

What's your favorite food? Crumb

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Fan club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Best advice you give your students about writing and getting published? Remember that they will be as important as those who read them.

Would you compare yourself as a young writer with your students today? On the basis of my early work I would have to reject Schubert’s Die Forelle — off my application to Hunter. The Street of Crocodiles, now On Fire. And I knew somehow concluded the work of Joseph Conrad, Henry James and Alice Munro.

Tell us about a memorable moment for you in the MFA Creative Writing Program. One recent night, reading with my colleague Tom Siegh at Hunter, looking down at the audience and sensing, scattered among the crowd, the extraordinary writers who mesh with me. I’m sorry you will not find, anywhere in the U.S., concentration of talent devoted to such a select number of students.

What's your favorite movie? Oscar and Lucinda

What's your favorite book? One Hundred Years of Solitude

Think of Piazzio and Joyce — the force of voice from the patriarchy addressing the metropolitan career.

What's the best thing about the Hunter MFA program in Creative Writing — and how do you hope you make it even better? The long list on both sides. One amazing gift we have is the Hunter writing fellowship. This has allowed our fiction and nonfiction students to work as paid research assistants for Tony Morrison, Salman Rushdie, Jonathan Franzen, Sir Howard, Kathryn Harrison, AH Hunter, Patrick McCarth, Jenny Egan, Jonathan Salzman-Fou, Richard Price. The list is too much longer. The writers are amazing. The students work hard. One feels love being changed.

What do you still hope to accomplish in your career? Write each day. Find novels, hope to stumble into territory that will take me to a higher, wonder place. I’m just finishing a novel titled His Illegal Self.

What book has inspired you the most in your writing career? If there was only one book, I could not have been a writer. There have been many fine instance: Faulkner’s A Man Died, L’Age Des Lave, while I was 20; Vonnegut’s Slaughterhouse-Five, when I was 25; Dhal’s Tie-Down, when I was 30; Tintori Shadr, when I was 40; Strindberg’s Miss Julie at Hunter, when I was 50; Tintori Shadr, when I was 60. But perhaps the student who traveled the furthest and overcame the most insurmountable odds to get a Hunter diploma was Suman Pradhan. Pradhan comes from a tiny village in Nepal near Mount Everest, which was not to be a help for him to get a proper education.

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New Hunter College Hall of Fame inductee Judy Francis Zankel (BFA ‘67) took everyone on a wonderful trip down memory lane at Alumni Weekend—regaling them with delightful stories about her “extraordinary” years as an art student at Hunter.

“I, BFA students were frankly bratty,” Zankel recalled as she and 12 other honorees officially became Hall of Fame members on April 28. “We felt very entitled. And that the rules for the rest of the College simply did not apply to us.”

“But Zankel looks back fondly on those happy days at Hunter in the mid ’60s as the place where she specialized…in art.”

“I remember sailing into a philosophy class immediately after a sculpture class,” she said, “and finding 75 other students there. After finding a corner, I started working on a ‘30s poster celebrating the workers in communist Russia. Again, no, I didn’t want to be an art teacher or an easel painter. I was ready for the real world.”

Then he smiled and said: ‘Ever heard of Aubrey Beardsley?’ No, I hadn’t, but I certainly was interested!”

“It was Goldstein who suggested she might like fashion drawing. And she recalled Smith as ‘a very kind person, always interested in the students’.”

Zankel went on to become an award-winning freelance illustrator. She recently finished a book, “The Life of Aubrey Beardsley,” which will be published in late 2007.

Zankel (BFA ’67) took everyone on a wonderful trip down Hunter Park Avenue had only recently been made co-educational, Zankel recalled as she told...
We are delighted to greet not only the new graduate of May 27, but all Hunter Alumnae.

First, please join us on Saturday, October 27, for our Fall Alumni Association Meeting and Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with classmates, update you on College news and plans, and set the stage for the upcoming year.

Second, our annual Alumni Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 18. Mark your calendar and plan to attend for a marvelous evening of camaraderie, music, door prizes and more!

For information on all alumni events, please visit us at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni.
Evelyn Kossak Gives $1M to Hunter for Art

Emily Braun Named CUNY Distinguished Professor

Student Art on Display