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**PRATT INSTITUTE'S 119th COMMENCEMENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 9
Zaha Hadid, Judith Jamison, and Thomas J. Cahill to Receive Honorary Degrees; Floyd Hughes to
Accept Distinguished Teacher Award**

BROOKLYN, N.Y., May 1, 2008 – Pratt Institute will present degrees to approximately 1,000 bachelor's and master's degree candidates during its 119th Commencement at 10 a.m. on May 9 on The Grand Mall of the Brooklyn campus. The Institute also will award honorary degrees to architect Zaha Hadid, dancer/choreographer Judith Jamison, and arts administrator Thomas J. Cahill, who will deliver Pratt's Commencement address at approximately 11 a.m. It will also honor 2008-2009 Distinguished Teacher Floyd Hughes, adjunct associate professor, Communications Design.

Thomas J. Cahill is president and chief executive officer of Studio in a School Association, Inc., New York City's largest visual arts education organization dedicated to placing professional artists in the city's public schools. Studio in a School serves approximately 140 Head Start programs, schools, and community centers in the city's five boroughs, and approximately 35,000 students. Cahill also was instrumental in creating the first accredited degree program, offered in conjunction with Pratt Institute, designed to help professional artists transition to careers as art teachers in New York City public schools.

Zaha Hadid is a British Iraqi architect who is renowned for pushing the boundaries of architecture and urban design with such seminal works as the Rosenthal Center of Contemporary Arts, Cincinnati, Ohio (2003), the BMW Central Building in Leipzig, Germany (2005), the Phaeno Science Center in Wolfsburg, Germany (2005), and the Nordpark Cable Railway in Innsbruck, Austria (2007). She was honored with a career-spanning retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2006 and a major exhibition at London's Design Museum in 2007. Hadid is the first female recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, architecture's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Judith Jamison is artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, a company with whom she performed for 15 years. Her electrifying performances of Ailey's solo *Cry* (1971) propelled her to international stardom. Jamison went on to perform in the Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies* in 1980, then appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world. She formed her own company, The Jamison Project in 1988. A PBS special, *Judith Jamison: The Dancemaker*, which depicted her creative process, aired nationally the same year and her autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, was published by Doubleday in 1993. Jamison has received numerous awards, including the Kennedy Center Honor and the National Medal of Arts.

Floyd Hughes, adjunct associate professor, Communications Design, has taught at Pratt since 1997. A professional artist and writer, Hughes has worked in illustration, film, television, fine arts, music, and comics. Hughes teaches four courses at Pratt—Visual Communications, Sequential Art, Methods and Media, and Senior Project—while pursuing a successful freelance career. He recently released '85, a graphic novel adaptation of fine artist Danny Simmons' novel *Three Days as the Crow Flies*, and is currently transforming the screenplay "F-Train to the Bronx" into a graphic novel. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and children.

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Student speaker Aimee Oz is from Long Island, N.Y. She is graduating with a bachelor's degree in writing for performance, publication, and media and plans to serve in the Peace Corps.

For more information on Pratt's Commencement, please visit: <http://www.pratt.edu/commencement>.

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About Pratt Institute:

Founded in 1887, Pratt Institute (www.pratt.edu) is one of the largest independent colleges of art and design in the United States, offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the schools of architecture, art and design, information and library science, and liberal arts and sciences. Pratt is located on 25 landscaped acres in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn and has a Manhattan campus in a large, newly renovated building on West 14th Street.