A new Pratt smart phone application, or app, now makes the MyPratt Web portal available from iPhones, Blackberries, or other smart mobile devices. The MyPratt Mobile app is the mobile version of the MyPratt Web portal, which is the gateway to a suite of services and resources essential to the academic community such as a searchable course catalog, faculty and staff directory, and email access. The new MyPratt Mobile app is secure and available to all students, faculty, and staff with a Pratt-issued password, known as a OneKey password.

Using the app, users can manage their Pratt email accounts, forwarding their email to other accounts or setting vacation alerts. Students and faculty can access the Learning Management System (LMS) to see the courses they are teaching or taking, and faculty and staff can see how much vacation and sick time they have accumulated. Users can read the latest Pratt news, and view a listing of exhibitions and events. They can even listen to Pratt radio and look up the week’s menus for the North Hall cafeteria and Gallery Café.

“It’s important for students to have instant access to information,” says Pete Easton, the portal administrator for the Pratt Web Group who developed the app. He says he began developing the app about six months ago, when he noticed his daughter, who was applying to college, would use her phone to search for information about colleges. “These students are already extremely mobile because they are constantly going from the studio to the lab to the classroom to the library,” says Hemway. “So I felt there was a real need for this.”

Hemway praised Easton for spearheading the app’s development. “Pete was so fascinated by this. He worked on it day and night,” says Hemway. “It’s been really well-received. The analytics show the number of users going to Pratt sites via the mobile app is way up.”

The app was built on a universal platform, so it can work on any smart phone with Internet access, not just the iPhone. Easton says he is expanding the capacity of the app, focusing on the LMS with the goal of allowing students to use the app to access the syllabi, articles, and other course materials they can currently only access from their computers. Eventually, he says he hopes professors will even be able to use the app to edit course materials.

“There’s such a big pull for mobile content right now. You want it when you need it wherever you are,” Easton says.

**PUT THE PRATT APP ON YOUR PHONE:**

On your phone browser: type mobile.pratt.edu and follow the instructions for accessing the app.

On your Apple computer: In Safari, go to mobile.pratt.edu

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**MY PRATT ON THE GO: WEB PORTAL NOW AVAILABLE AS SMART PHONE APPLICATION**

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**GERMAN PHYSICIST IS PRATT’S FIRST POST-DOC FELLOW**

Pratt’s Mathematics and Science Department has created the first scientific postdoctoral fellowship at a U.S. college of art and design, thanks to a generous award from the Stockman Family Foundation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Its recipient, Dr. Konstantin Ulrich, a physicist from the University of Leipzig, Germany, was selected from among many outstanding international candidates who sought the opportunity to apply their scientific skills to solving problems in the field of art conservation.

Ulrich has been at Pratt since June 2009, bringing his expertise in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) to Associate Professor Eleonora Del Federico’s research lab in chemistry for the arts. There, he is investigating the problem of metal soap formation in traditional oil paintings, which is known to cause deterioration due to the reaction between the oil medium and metal ions in oil paint.

A better understanding of how metal soap formation occurs and the factors that trigger it is crucial to properly conserving paintings at risk explains Del Federico, “so Dr. Ulrich’s participation has been invaluable.” To conduct his research and aid students in theirs, Ulrich has been teaching them how to use Pratt’s NMR-MOUSE, Fourier-Transformed Infrared (FTIR), and X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) and Raman instruments purchased through grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, both in New York City.

During the spring semester, Ulrich has been teaching an undergraduate course, Scientific Analysis of Works of Art. “I am impressed with students’ curiosity and adeptness,” says Ulrich. “My students are clearly passionate about art and excited by the way technology can be used to analyze it and understand the science behind conserving it.” He has also been using Pratt’s NMR-MOUSE to start a new and promising project to investigate the cleaning of acrylic paintings, the modern medium used in so much contemporary art.

The fellowship is also enabling Ulrich to expand Del Federico’s existing collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s scientist Dr. Silvia Centeno and research fellow Dr. Federico Caro in a project to measure the porosity of Cambodian sculptures in the museum’s collection.
We’ve accepted students from nearly all of the major specialized art and design high schools across the country—both public and private—including Idyllwild in California; Interlochen and Cranbook in Michigan; LaGuardia and the High School of Art and Design in New York; Chicago Academy of the Arts in Illinois; and the Walnut Hill School for the Arts and Boston Academy of Art in Massachusetts.

Has the applicant pool changed at all since you started at Pratt in 1989? In the time that Judith Aaron, vice president for enrollment management and financial aid, and I have been working together, we’ve seen the average SAT score increase from 500 to 1,165 and the average GPA go from 2.8 to 3.6 for accepted students. The quality of portfolios has significantly improved, and Pratt is attracting a far higher percentage of the accepted students with top portfolios to enroll.

What’s probably the most important factor in whether a student chooses Pratt? Hands down, it is the quality of the faculty, the student interaction with the faculty, and faculty connections. Oh, did I say, “the faculty”? What’s the craziest question a parent ever asked you? The mother of an accepted student asked me where her daughter could board her horse while attending Pratt. When they found out it wasn’t covered by financial aid, they sold the horse to help with expenses, and she came to Pratt anyway as an illustration major.

Will the new building going up on Myrtle Avenue have any impact on admissions? Definitely. Having prospective students visit us in a well-designed, professional space should certainly have a positive impact on enrollment. High school students today are very socially and environmentally conscious, so many prospective students will be impressed that Pratt has a LEED-certified building. The beautified residential campus is also appealing. No other art school in the country can provide this kind of environment in such a vibrant metropolis.

What professional background do you bring to your position? I had worked primarily as a freelance photographer but also had experience as a filmmaker and graphic designer, while continuing to work in painting and drawing. I was on the adjunct faculty of a liberal arts college and taught in a number of private workshops. It was teaching that initiated my interest in art school admissions and working with students.

What do you do for fun? I’ve recently been forced into some lifestyle changes due to medical issues, but previously I enjoyed a wide variety of outdoor sports and activities including climbing, hiking and backpacking, Nordic skiing, and canoeing and kayaking. Here in the city I like to swim, bike, and run. I guess I’m a bit of a gym rat. I also continue to make art and exhibit.
How do you find dance and dance therapy to be similar to—and different from—one another?

When you are a professional dancer, you are there to give life to someone else’s choreography. As a dance therapist, my task is to support my patients’ self-expression. Most patients at my internship at Bronx Psychiatric Center’s Ginsburg Outpatient Clinic suffer from schizophrenia and have physical impairments due to side effects of medications. My job, rather than telling them what to do, is to mirror their movements so they feel validated. Then, I can gradually introduce a broader, healthier range of expressive movements. The premise is that a change in the body will lead to a change in the psyche.

What made you make the transition from dance to dance therapy?

I have been studying psychology as a hobby for as long as I can remember. I began to think about dance therapy after a chance encounter with my friend Deniz Oktay, M.S. ’04, who was working at Bellevue’s Forensic Unit for patients deemed criminally insane. When a severe illness and injury showed me that my dancing days were numbered, the thought of dance therapy popped into my head.

What kind of work do you want to do as a dance therapist?

I want to work in an acute psychiatric inpatient unit with adult and geriatric populations. My favorite aunt suffered from schizophrenia, paranoid type, and witnessing her suffering had a deep impact on my life. She was a beautiful, smart, loving woman, who was ultimately destroyed by her disease. I want to help others to avoid, or lessen, the kind of suffering that mental illness brings about.

How does it feel to be leaving professional dance?

Grief and mourning have been the main feelings I’ve experienced, but working on my thesis has been the most beneficial experience. When a severe illness and injury showed me that my dancing days were numbered, the thought of dance therapy popped into my head.

What do you think dance and dance therapy are similar to—and different from—one another?

As a dance therapist, my task is to support my patients’ self-expression. Most patients at my internship at Bronx Psychiatric Center’s Ginsburg Outpatient Clinic suffer from schizophrenia and have physical impairments due to side effects of medications. My job, rather than telling them what to do, is to mirror their movements so they feel validated. Then, I can gradually introduce a broader, healthier range of expressive movements. The premise is that a change in the body will lead to a change in the psyche.

JEWELRY THESIS EXHIBITION AND AWARDS

Senior jewelry major Aram Moon won first prize at this year’s Jewelry Thesis Exhibition held at the Rubelle and Norman Schaffer Gallery (March 30–April 7) and later at the Pratt Show (May 11–14). Moon’s collection, “Aram’s Wonderland” featured pieces she describes as “playful jewelry on the body and toys off the body.”

An 11-person jury of Pratt faculty members and visiting experts awarded Moon the Rekha-Leigh Punch Alumna Award; second prize winner La Hyun Choi received the Robert Bentley Co. Award; third prize winner Miok Yoo received the Jewelers Resource Award; and fourth prize winner Seung Hye Shin received the Myron Toback, Inc. Award. Kaylee Russotti and Leslie Boyd were designated for Honorable Mention.
The last thing SARAH MORGAN, M.I.D. ’04, expected to be was a handbag designer with her own company. She thought the entertainment industry was her future; after all, her father created one of Canada’s most famous radio and television comedy shows. After a childhood spent between Canada and Britain, Morgan moved to New York to work in music production. “After a while,” she says, “I wasn’t feeling fulfilled. I found myself doing a lot of drawing at my job—which is never a good sign. I had won awards for art in high school, so I decided to look at Pratt.” Once at Pratt, fashion still never crossed Morgan’s mind. “I did my thesis on lighting,” Morgan says. “Never in my life would I have thought I would go into fashion.” However, Morgan took a fashion elective in her final semester, encouraged by Pratt’s emphasis on trying different subjects. “Pratt is about exploration,” she says. “For me, Pratt was an experience of learning how to communicate visually, and helping define who I was and how I wanted to spend my time.” For the class, Morgan created a handbag collection, which landed her a spot in the Pratt Design Incubator. There, she laid the groundwork for launching her handbag company Eenamaria. Fast forward six years: Eenamaria is flourishing. Morgan is launching a collection for Target.com at the end of May and working on one for ShopNBC.com. Her bags are sold in more than 100 boutiques around the world and are regularly sported by celebrities. They have been seen at the Golden Globe Awards and featured in top magazines. Morgan says she credits Pratt not just for teaching her to design, but giving her the confidence to run her own design business. “I never trusted my talent working in the entertainment industry,” she says. “My job now requires that I rely only on my talent. My teachers encouraged me and gave me the confidence to trust my abilities.”