

# ARLIS / New York News

The Newsletter of the Art Libraries Society of North America/New York Metro Chapter

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## Final Report from the Chair

By Jenny Tobias

To conclude the year, a review.

Perhaps most important, the Chapter enjoyed numerous engaging tours and talks arranged by Past Chair Ken Soehner. (To remind yourself, please see <http://www.arlisny.org/previousevents.htm>). For the coming year, please in mind that anyone can propose (and organize) an event. Why should Ken have all the fun?

Towards year's end, the Chapter reviewed and debated an initiative by ARLIS/NA, an affiliation agreement. To review briefly, key implications for chapter members concerned liability and adherence to bylaws requiring national membership as a prerequisite to Chapter membership.

This initiative passed, as did the proposal to begin electronic voting. Vote counts are below, courtesy of Tony White. This year's voting was so nice we did it twice, due to a snafu courtesy of your now-Past Chair. Your patience with this was appreciated, and my apologies for the added time and cost.

Of course, the year concluded with a party, complete with live music. Rock on!

And now, the future. With the affiliation agreement passed, the new board will need to clarify chapter membership types, create a structure to keep non-NA-member, chapter-level participation in ARLIS/NY activities, and consider chapter insurance. For additional goals and initiatives, stay tuned for word from the new board.

Good luck to Zimra, Paul, Lana, and James. This outgoing Chair wishes the Chapter another year of short meetings and great parties.

## Affiliation and Election Results

Chapter Secretary Tony White reports the results of the recent elections, for which mailed-in ballots had to be post-marked by December 30:

On the important issue of the Chapter's signing the new affiliation agreement with ARLIS/NA, the membership voted as follows:

Yes votes: 77

No votes: 15

Abstentions: 12

As a two-thirds majority was required, the Affiliation Agreement was approved.

The other bylaws change on the ballot, to allow the use of electronic ballots in future chapter elections, also passed by a wide margin:

Yes votes: 93

No votes: 6

Abstentions: 4

There were also three open positions for chapter office. Paul Glassman received the majority of votes for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for 2007.

Running in unopposed elections, Lana Bittman will serve as Secretary, and James Mitchell will be the new Member-at-Large for Advertising (both for two-year terms).

Congratulations to all the candidates, and say good-bye to paper ballots!

## 2007 ARLIS/NY Executive Board

**Chair** Zimra Panitz

**Vice-Chair** Paul Glassman

**Past Chair** Jenny Tobias

**Secretary** Lana Bittman

**Treasurer** Meg Black

### Members at Large

**Membership** Eric Wolf

**Advertising** James Mitchell

### Newsletter Editors

Alexandra de Luise

James Mitchell

**Website Manager** Suz Massen

### ARLIS/NA Northeast Regional

**Representative** Carole Ann Fabian

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### Contributors

Meg Black, Sherman Clarke, Joy Kestenbaum, Suz Massen, James Mitchell, Faith Pleasanton, Sarah Rhodes, Jenni Rodda, Linda Seckleson, Suzanna Simor, Jenny Tobias, Eric Wolf.

The ARLIS/NY Newsletter is published quarterly by the Art Libraries Society of New York, a regional chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America, 329 March Road, suite 232, box 11, Kanata, Ontario K2K 2E1, Canada.

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This publication is distributed free of charge to members of ARLIS/NY. Membership dues are \$20 for the calendar year.

**Send renewals, changes of address, and contributions** to Eric Wolf, Membership Coordinator, ARLIS/NY, New York School of Interior Design, Library, 170 East 70th St., New York, NY 10021.

**Announcements, articles, and artwork are welcome.** Send to Alexandra de Luise, Queen's College, Flushing, NY 11367, alexandra.deluise@qc.cuny.edu; or to James Mitchell, jmittellster@gmail.com.

**Advertising Manager:** James Mitchell, 718-902-1124, jmittellster@gmail.org.

## Electronic-Only Distribution of ARLIS/NY News

Beginning in 2007, the chapter's newsletter, *ARLIS/NY News*, will be available only as an electronic edition, accessed via the chapter website. Paper copies will be provided only to members with a disability preventing use of computers. Please notify the newsletter editor if you require paper mailings.

Expect further announcements soon about the new format. The editors and website manager are working on a blog and Flickr site that will provide more timely coverage of chapter events and allow members to post announcements and responses.

## ARLIS/NY Treasurer's Report for the Year 2006

By Meg Black

Beginning Bank Balance (12/31/05)	\$ 10,498.38
<b>INCOME</b>	
2006 Dues/Contributions	\$ 3,775.00
2007 Dues	\$ 380.00
Advertising: Ebsco	\$ 90.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,245.00</b>

### EXPENDITURES

2005 Holiday Party	\$ 1,159.70
Event at Charles Cowles Gallery	\$ 90.26
Event at CUNY Grad Ctr.	\$ 97.54
Newsletter v. 26, no.3-4; v.27, no.1-2	\$ 63.98
NYTSL spring reception contribution	\$ 50.00
Celine Palatsky Travel Award	\$ 1,000.00
ARLIS/NA conference 2006 welcome party contribution	\$ 500.00
Donation to Anna Amalia Bibliothek	\$ 100.00
Fall business meeting held at Bard Grad. Ctr.	\$ 117.54
Election mailing	\$ 128.34
Bank service charges (Jan.-Dec.)	\$ 173.14
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 3,480.50</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance (12/31/06)</b>	<b>\$ 11,262.88</b>

## Next Chapter Event

Visit the treasures of Audubon Terrace in northern Manhattan!

Saturday, March 17, 2007, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

- Library of the Hispanic Society of America, tour by Todd Florio, Head of Education and Public Programs.
- Museum of the Hispanic Society of America, tour by Dr. Marcus Burke, Curator of Paintings, Drawings, and Metalwork.
- Visit to the Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Art, The American Institute of Arts and Letters.

R.S.V.P. to Paul Glassman, glassman@pratt.edu, 718-636-3545, by March 9, 2007. The tour is limited to the first 25 individuals who respond.

## Third Pratt Summer Institute in Florence

By Sarah Rhodes

From May 21 through June 11, the Cultural Informatics Program at Pratt Institute's School of Information and Library Science brought 16 graduate students and library professionals to Florence, Italy, for three full weeks of immersive study in Florentine art and culture.

Now in its third year, the Pratt Summer Institute in Florence has earned some celebrity among students of library science and art history. Last winter, applications for the 2006 Institute poured in from students across the country. In addition to select Pratt students in New York, this year's participants included scholars from Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, and Texas.

Conceived and designed by Dr. AnnaMaria Poma-Swank, associate visiting professor at Pratt-SILS, and Dr. Tula Giannini, dean of Pratt-SILS, this year's course was taught and directed by Dr. Poma-Swank. A native of Florence, she holds a doctorate in art history from the University of Florence and is a scholar of Medieval and Renaissance art. Dr. Poma-Swank devised and facilitated a rigorous agenda of tours and a series of lectures by Florence's preeminent authorities in art, conservation, librarianship, curatorship, publishing, and Renaissance history. She was assisted by Pratt-SILS graduate student Ilaria Papini, also a native of Florence.

Activities included guided tours of Florence's most renowned research libraries and archives, including the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, the Uffizi Library, the Alinari photo archives, the Biblioteca dell'Accademia della Crusca, Michelozzo's Library in the Convent of San Marco, and the library of Bernard Berenson, located at Harvard University's Villa I Tatti in the lush hills of Fiesole northeast of Florence.

The course, however, was not limited in scope to Florentine libraries and offered a refreshingly interdisciplinary approach to library studies. The class visited the Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics to hear a lecture by Professor Alberto Righini on the history of astronomy in religion and art. Students attended a seminar by Barbara Casalini and enjoyed lunch at the hillside-villa offices of Italian-publication vendor Casalini Libri. They also received intimate lectures held at such landmarks as Orsanmichele, the Museo del Bargello, and the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, with its famous Dome designed by Brunelleschi.

Yet, among the most exciting activities were the private, behind-the-scenes tours of Florence's cultural treasures made possible through Dr. Poma-Swank's strong rapport with her international colleagues. These events included a walk through Vasari's Corridor, the private elevated walkway of the Medici connecting the Uffizi to the Pitti Palace; a backroom, after-hours lecture at the Uffizi's Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe; and a guided tour of the secret apartments and sanctuaries of the Medici Grand Dukes, hidden in the walls of the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence's seat of government.

In addition to the scheduled lectures, each student developed and worked on an individual project in exhibition development and resource documentation. Students received library cards in order to conduct research at Florentine institutions, as well as a pass allowing free entrance into Florence museums.

This pass was the prize possession of every student; not only did it grant free admission into museums such as the Uffizi, the Pitti Palace, and the Galleria dell'Accademia, but it also allowed the carrier to forgo long museum-entry lines accompanied by waits of up to three hours. For most visitors to Florence, a trip to

one of these institutions would be a daylong activity, but for the Pratt class, all it took was a short walk from the hotel and a quick flash of the pass to see Michelangelo's *David* one more time or to spend a leisurely afternoon strolling the paths of Boboli Gardens.

Indeed, the history, culture, and art of Florence were inspirational and awe-inspiring. But, as every Summer Institute scholar discovered, so was the ambient beauty of Florence — the bells, the hills, the Arno River, the Tuscan sunshine, the songbirds at dusk. The 2006 Pratt Summer Institute in Florence was not only an excellent course; it was an unforgettable life experience.



Pratt students and faculty in Florence. Photo courtesy Sarah Rhodes.

## New Features in Artifact

By Suz Massen

On Friday September 29, 2006, approximately 40 members of ARLIS/NY attended an informational session held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art about the Artifact subscription auction results databases and website. Artifact has recently made many changes to its product. Julie Carlson, Vice President, Research Products, gave an online demonstration of the Artifact databases and website that highlighted its recent enhancements.

Founded in 1989, Artifact launched its web version in 1999. Artifact contains records for more than 10 million objects that have sold at auction from the late 1980s to the present. It contains records for both the fine and decorative arts. Auction catalog entries are often transcribed and included in the database records, and many of the records, especially for more recent years, contain images of the objects at auction. All these points make Artifact a valuable resource.

In the past, the search interface for Artifact was a simple or guided keyword search. Artifact recognized that while keyword searching works well for retrieving auction results for the decorative arts, it is less effective for retrieving auction results for the fine arts. In 2006, Artifact launched its Fine Art Auction Database and continued to maintain its original Artifact Auction Database. The interface for the original Artifact Auction Database continues to offer access to auction records for both the fine and decorative arts by performing a keyword search. The new Fine Art Auction Database is searched by entering an artist's name. If an artist is listed in the database, it pulls up an information page on the artist that includes a biography, records for items that have sold at auction, a list of auction houses that have sold works by the artist, images, a bibliography, related topics, and related web resources. The provided biographies are from the Grove Dictionary of Art. The provided websites are skimmed from the web, and are mostly institutional or educational in nature.

Artifact is enhancing its product by creating subject indexing that links artists of similar styles and time periods together. This is something that is currently being developed and improved. Artifact plans to at least double its size by continuing to acquire auction results data for auction houses not previously included in the database. This includes an expansion of its second and third tier auction house coverage for both the United States and Europe. A brief mention at the presentation raised the possibility of including the sales of dealers and galleries in future content.

ARLIS/NY would like to thank Ken Soehner and the staff of the Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for hosting the session and its following reception. It would also like to thank Judy Carlson for speaking about the recent enhancements to the Artifact database and website, as well as listening to the user feedback that the members of ARLIS/NY were able to provide for her. The enhancements to the Artifact databases and website continue to make it valuable to the art research community.

## Ten Years of Rhizome

By James Mitchell

Last July 12 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Thomas J. Watson Library, ARLIS/NY members welcomed Lauren Cornell, Executive Director of Rhizome. Ms. Cornell demonstrated some of the new features and rich content of the Rhizome database of new media art. She also discussed the history of the organization and some of the new programs and activities Rhizome has been implementing.

Rhizome was founded in 1996 by Mark Tribe as a mailing list for a small group of people who had begun exploring the potential of Internet-based art. The organization has grown with the field, during a formative period. Originally mostly sited online, now much of the work, even while addressing the Internet, is not necessarily based there. Works falling under this broad heading are increasingly installation and performance-oriented, reflecting the pervasive presence of the Net in contemporary life.

As it celebrates its tenth anniversary Rhizome has established itself as the preeminent forum and resource for the archiving and study of new media art. Ms. Cornell demonstrated several representative works from Rhizome's subscription ArtBase, and discussed their ongoing research on folksonomies for the description of new media works.

The meeting was graciously organized and hosted by the Watson's Chief Librarian, and ARLIS/NY Past Chair, Ken Soehner. Our thanks again to Ken and his staff.



Illustration by Jenny Tobias.

## At the Goethe Institute

By Linda Seckleson

On June 12, 2006, ARLIS/NY members had the opportunity to learn about the fire at the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar. Most of us had read press coverage about this event, which occurred in September, 2004. Dr. Michael Knoche, the library's director, provided a first-hand report of the events, including a video of the burning building and a detailed description of the shorter and longer term rescue activities with which the library and its staff are still consumed.

The event on June 12 was held at the Goethe Institut and was co-sponsored by that organization. We were beautifully hosted (and fed), thanks to Marilen Daum, Edna McCown and Gabriele Becker.

The Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek is a significant library and cultural institution. Founded by Herzog Wilhelm Ernst von Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach in 1691, it was named for the Herzogin Anna Amalia (1739–1807), who organized the establishment of the court collections in the "Grüne Schloss" where it has remained until the fire. Goethe was its director between 1797 and 1832, and under his oversight the library became one of the 12 most important collections in Germany at that time.

The library's holdings include significant collections of manuscripts, early printed books, music manuscripts, and many editions of important German literary works. The collection of over a million volumes includes large collections of works on the Faust legend (13,000) and by Shakespeare (10,000).

The fire damaged or destroyed about one tenth of the library's collection (over 100,000 volumes), as well as paintings and sculpture. It is estimated that two-thirds of the books lost in the fire are replaceable, provided they can be found in the used/rare book market and paid for. Systematic acquisition of replacements has already begun. Emergency procedures at the time of the fire involved transportation of water-logged books to the Zentrum für Bucherhaltung in Leipzig for freeze-drying. Over 60,000 volumes were badly damaged, and over 50,000 lost completely.

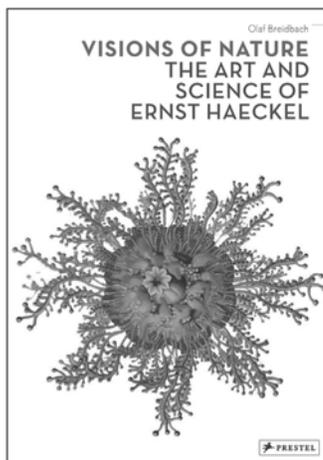
Dr. Knoche has been actively garnering support for the restoration and replacement of the collections. In addition to state and governmental support, substantial sums have been raised from businesses, foundations, individuals, and through benefit events. Information about donating to the Anna Amalia Bibliothek is available at <http://adminstaff.vassar.edu/patkus/Americanfriends.htm>. More information about the library in general is at <http://www.anna-amalia-bibliothek.de/>. Dr. Knoche also published an article in the *IFLA Journal*, "The Herzogin Anna Amalia Library After the Fire" (2005, 31: 93–106).

ARLIS/NY has made a contribution of \$100 to the Friends of the Anna Amalia Bibliothek and encourages everyone to consider additional support.

### Visions of Nature

*The Art and Science of Ernst Haeckel*

OLAF BREIDBACH



The first comprehensive survey of the remarkable work of the late nineteenth-century biologist and artist Ernst Haeckel, this book conveys a vivid picture of a man for whom nature and art were inseparable.

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## Holiday Party at MoMA

On December 14th ARLIS/NY gathered at the Museum of Modern Art for its annual holiday party. Organized by chapter Chair Jenny Tobias and the MoMA library staff, the party was a wonderful opportunity for members to mingle with colleagues in the newly renovated and relocated library. A performance of traditional Irish music was provided by Rosemary Clancy and her two brothers.

Among those pictured below (roughly counterclockwise from upper-left): the Clancy's; Michael Carter, Evalyn Stone, Barbara Rockenbach, John Maier, Ralph Ocker, and Faith Pleasanton; Faith again, Milan Hughston, and Lily Pregill; Clare Hills-Nova, Shalimar Fojas, Paul Glassman, Elizabeth Broman, Edye Weisler, Evalyn Stone, and Tamara Foltz; Jenny Tobias and Tony White.

Knoedler and Company was again very generous in contributing a year-end donation of \$200 to ARLIS/NY. We thank Ann Freedman, their President and Director, and Edye Weissler, librarian, for their ongoing support of the chapter's activities.



## Member News

**Larissa Beringer**, former Art & Architecture Librarian, Assistant Professor, at the Pratt Institute commenced her new position on August 1st, 2006 as Librarian/Faculty at the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Congratulations to ARLIS member **Max Marmor** on his appointment as President of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

## New Members in 2006

Jennifer Aronson	Mary Lucy Leggiero	Martha Catherine Repp
Tricia Bassett	Sherri Liberman	Jacqueline Rogers
Andrew F. Beccone	Barbara Mathe	Lisa Ryan
Lisa Marie Beidel	Robin Moore	Angela R. Sidman
Rebecca Clark	Arezoo Moseni	Francine Snyder
John J. Forbis	Jessica Pigza	Carrie Netzer Wajda
Billy Chi-Hing Kwan	Andrea Puccio	Karen Williams
		Pamela T. Wilson

## Obituary: Evelyn Samuel

A longtime ARLIS/NY stalwart passed away earlier this year.

SAMUEL--Evelyn K. 9/26/1923-9/13/2006. She received an MLS from Columbia University, an MA and a PhD from NYU. She was the Head Librarian for NYU's Institute of Fine Arts in New York City. Evelyn took up residence in Santa Cruz, CA in 2002, where she made many wonderful new friends. Her husband, Fred predeceased her in 1987. She is survived by her sons Barry and Russell, daughter-in-law Ellen, grandchildren: Erica, Justin, Melanie, Shawn, Kevin and greatgranddaughter Alanna Rose.

*New York Times* paid notice, September 15, 2006

### Remembrances:

Evelyn—"Sam"—was the librarian at the IFA during my early student years there and she was an institution. We became good friends and later colleagues as librarians, and I must say I watched her how she was going about it and learned a lot from her. She published on prints, and I recall Harry Bober's encouraging her research ("sleuthing"). She chaired ARLIS/NY in the chapter's early years and was active in ARLIS/NA. And she certainly was unforgettable. Drove to work from Forest Hills to Manhattan and back every day of her long years at the IFA, and always found parking—she could spot people walking to their cars from blocks away. She much enjoyed her personal life, her husband with whom she travelled often, once memorably through the Panama Canal, her children and grandchildren (her Japanese grandchildren were beautiful), her pleasant house (where she liked to put the fireplace to use on occasion, though not always managed to open the damper first). She was the first person I knew who bought a home computer. After retiring from the IFA she continued to enjoy life and took up weaving.

— Suzanna Simor

I do fondly remember seeing her at the long-gone Madison Pub just north of 79th Street, sharing a coffee and a conversation in German with IFA faculty. She was a real character.

— Jenni Rodda

Evelyn was an interesting personality; as a smoker, she permitted smoking in one room—the Modern Room—at the Institute. Of course, today that would not be possible. I see that she completed her Ph.D. in 1986—at the age of 63—on "Developing computerized information systems for art museums" for New York University's School of Education, Health, Nursing, and Arts Professions.

— Joy Kestenbaum

I remember Evelyn well, and worked with her for quite some time, when she was at the Institute and I was at Wittenborn's. She was also involved with the early years of ARLIS here in NYC. I always enjoyed her intelligent and engaged manner; as a fellow book-person, she was very good company.

— Faith Pleasanton

We thank Sherman Clarke and Paula Frosch for bringing this to the Chapter's attention.

## Random Stuff from the Past-Chair

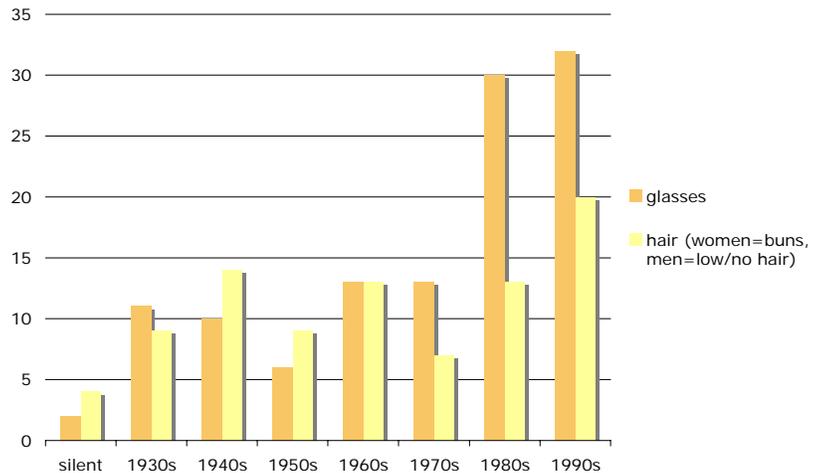
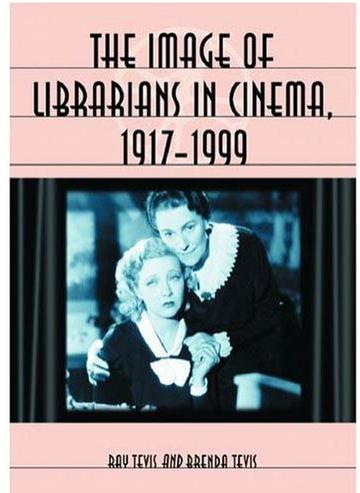
By Jenny Tobias

In *The Image of Librarians in Cinema, 1917-1999* (McFarland, 2005), authors Ray and Brenda Tevis survey eighty years of film, mostly American and British. The authors conclude: “The stereotypical image of librarians is embedded deeply in the psyche of American popular culture.”

Supporting their argument is a tabulation of the universal symbols of librarianship: gender, age, glasses, and hairstyle. Of 326 librarians spotted in eighty years of film, the study finds that 236 (72%) are women, and 90 (28%) are men. In the authors’ estimation, of librarians who appear to be over age 40, women represent 43% and men 59%. Though the tabulation fails to take into account the total number of films produced in each decade, image-conscious appendix-readers can draw interesting conclusions from the data.

In the spirit of the study, I’ve charted the findings on glasses and hair. Seen in this way, we learn that glasses trended sharply upwards in the past twenty years, while hair conditions have remained relatively steady over the decades. Oddly, in the supposedly conformist 1950s, glasses and hairlines dropped relative to the ’40s and ’60s. Perhaps everyone looked like a librarian then.

Clearly, there is more work to be done. How do socio-economic trends affect reel librarians? For example, have the wide availability of contact lenses and Rogaine affected the public image? The research possibilities (and perhaps tenure) compel us to put on our glasses and get to work.



## Celine Palatsky Travel Award

ARLIS/NY is please to offer its annual Celine Palatsky Travel Award to support attendance at the ARLIS/NA 35th annual conference, to be held April 26–30, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia. One award of \$750 will be offered.

Qualifications for applying:

- You must be both an ARLIS/NY and ARLIS/NA member.
- You may not have full institutional support.
- You may not be an ARLIS/NY board member.
- You may not have won this award in the past five years.

Please include the following information in a letter of application:

- A short biography;
- The nature of your interest in art librarianship;
- Your reason(s) for wanting to attend the conference and how you expect to benefit from it;
- The amount or range of institutional support you are likely to receive, based on past practice and current circumstances;
- The name and contact information for one reference: a supervisor, professional colleague, or a faculty member.

Please submit your letter of application and a résumé via electronic mail, as Microsoft Word attachments or as PDFs, no later than 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, to [glassman@pratt.edu](mailto:glassman@pratt.edu). The decision will be made by the Award Committee: Paul Glassman, Zimra Panitz, and Eric Wolf.