



March 20, 2017

To: The Faculty and Staff  
From: Barry Pearson, Provost

Dear Colleagues:

I'm impressed by how often I hear people say, "I love this place." I hear it casually: students talking to one another in the hallways, from faculty and staff around campus, and from graduates at alumni events.

I'd never given the sentiment much thought until I decided to respond to someone the other day by saying, "What is it that you love?" The person's answer didn't surprise me. She said, "Well, the people for one thing. The students are never dull and everyone's so nice."

I think, however accidentally, that people who stay at Purchase do so because the work feels important and worthwhile, which, in turn, even during difficult times, buoys the collective optimism. In short, loving the place is to love what we all do.

I think retention is one way we see our optimism play out and affect students. And the signs on this front are encouraging. Our first-to-second-semester retention is currently near our all-time high of 94%. Here some other worthy notes on retention:

- Retention of our BA/BS students increased from 93.1% in the 2015 cohort to 94.2% in the 2016 cohort.
- Retention of our undeclared students rose from 89.1% to 92.9%.
- Retention of our low-income students in the 2016 cohort was at 94.3%.
- Retention of our first-generation students was higher, at 95.5%.
- Retention of our 58 students in the pilot group of Success Fellows was 100%.

These numbers represent a lot of hard work by everyone across campus. So, thank you so much.

But to return to the love of this place: it's something we should never take for granted. It reminds me that it's the people who make the place, and it's the people who make our mission and values live. Ultimately, our shared purpose lives in us, is expressed by us, and is validated when we hear people say they "love this place."

**Strategic Plan Update:** This section will be a regular feature of *Notes* going forward. To date, the work on the new strategic plan has included an evaluation of the previous plan and ongoing work by centers of strategic activity (e.g., strategic enrollment planning, completed program opportunities analyses, campus forums dealing with subjects of strategic importance, work with the BPC and SPC, etc.). Our next steps will include:

- asking everyone to respond to strategic inquiry questions; and
- creating a SharePoint site that will contain suggested readings.

These steps will help gather input to shape and focus the next strategic plan. A draft document will be ready for feedback and response by the fall semester.

---

## Save the Dates!

### Campus Forum #3

Wed., April 5, 3–5 p.m., in the Buffer

**Topic:** Strengthening Our Student Success Network

**Presenter:** Patricia Bice, Dean of Student Success

### Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception

Wed., April 26, 4:30 p.m.

Library, Second Floor Reading Room

*Watch for your invitation, with an RSVP link*

## Purchase College Faculty Awards

**Reminder!** Application/nomination deadlines are approaching for the following Purchase College faculty award:

## Natural Sciences Lecture Tomorrow!

[Sleep: The Pattern of Life](#)

June Pilcher, PhD, Distinguished Professor, Clemson University

**Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m.**

Natural Sciences Building, Room 1001

Although humans spend one third of their lives sleeping, few people understand what is happening when we sleep and the benefits of good sleep habits. This talk will describe sleep (something that sleep scientists are very good at) and will delve into the possible functions of sleep (something that sleep scientists are still trying to figure out). Good sleep habits are equally important for long-term good health as good exercise and eating habits; however, many people in our society continue to view sleep as something they can give up at least temporarily. We pay a clear price for bad sleep habits and chronic sleep loss. This talk will cover the negative effects of regular sleep loss and poor sleep habits and will offer ideas for how to improve sleep.

This lecture is made possible by generous contributions from Sigma Xi & Con Edison.

## Upcoming Events: March–April

For the most current information on upcoming public events, please refer to the following calendars: [campus](#), [Neuberger Museum](#), and [Performing Arts Center](#). (Events and details may be added, changed, or deleted after an issue of *Notes* is prepared.)

*Exhibitions on view:*

### Neuberger Museum of Art:

- [Françoise Gilot: The Tamarind Years](#) (through May 28)
- [Leandro Erlich: Port of Reflections](#) (through July 30)
- **Fred Wilson – opens March 19** (through July 30)

### Neuberger Museum of Art at SPACE | 42:

- [Deborah Kass: Day After Day](#) (through May 28)

### Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

- [Punching Up](#) (through Mar. 24)
- [MFA Thesis Exhibition Series, Show I](#) (April 5–21); **opening reception:** April 5, 5:30 p.m.

[Mary Edwards Memorial Lecture: Adotei Akwei](#), Amnesty International  
*Breaking the Glass Ceiling, and Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa:  
The Challenge of Women's Rights*  
**Mon., Mar. 20**, 4:30 p.m.  
Student Services Building, Red Room

**Purchase College Guitar Ensemble**  
**Tues., Mar. 21**, 3 p.m.  
Neuberger Museum of Art

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Divya Mehra](#)  
**Tues., Mar. 21**, 4:30 p.m.  
Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Sleep: The Pattern of Life—June Pilcher, PhD](#)  
*Natural and Social Sciences Lecture Series*  
**Tues., Mar. 21**, 7 p.m.  
Natural Sciences Building, Room 1001

[Blitzed: Drugs in the Third Reich](#)  
A Book Presentation by Norman Ohler  
**Wed., Mar. 22**, 2:30 p.m.  
Humanities Building, Room 1086

[A Reading and Conversation with Rachel Kushner](#)  
*Durst Distinguished Lecture Series*  
**Wed., Mar. 22**, 4:30 p.m.  
Neuberger Museum Study

[New Media Lecture Series: Fred Wilson](#)  
*Held in conjunction with the exhibition of his work*  
**Wed., Mar. 22**, 6:30 p.m.  
Neuberger Museum Study

**Film Screening: Ovarian Psycos**  
Followed by Q&A with director Joanna Sokolowski  
*Film and Media Studies New Programmers Series*  
**Thurs., Mar. 23**, 7 p.m.  
Music Choral Hall

[Purchase Opera: Coronation of Poppea](#)  
**Thurs.–Sat., Mar. 23–25**, 7 p.m.  
**Sun., Mar. 26**, 1 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[Horror Show](#)  
*Theatre and Performance / CollaborationTown*  
**Fri., Mar. 24**, 7:30 p.m.  
**Sat., Mar. 25**, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Thurs.–Fri., Mar. 30–31**, 7:30 p.m.

**Sat., April 1**, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[Shen Wei Dance Arts](#)

**Sat., Mar. 25**, 8 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey](#)

**Sun., Mar. 26**, 3 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra](#)

**Sun., Mar. 26**, 6 p.m.  
Birdland Jazz Club, NYC

[Visiting Artist Lecture: Luis Camnitzer](#)

**Wed., Mar. 29**, 4:30 p.m.  
Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

**William Brewer: Reading and Q&A**

*Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellows Series*

**Wed., Mar. 29**, 6 p.m.  
Humanities Building, Room 2059

[Panel Discussion: The Uncanny Work of Leandro Erlich](#)

**Wed., Mar. 29**, 6:30 p.m.  
Neuberger Museum of Art

[Joanna Gleason: From Campfire to Cabaret](#)

**Thurs., Mar. 30**, 8 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[The Orchestra Now](#)

**Sat., April 1**, 8 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[Hypnotic Brass Ensemble](#)

**Sun., April 2**, 3 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center

[Jandon Business of the Arts Distinguished Lecture](#)

*Risë Wilson, Director of Philanthropy, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation*

**Mon., April 3**, 6:30 p.m.  
Humanities Theatre

[Latino Immigrants, Acculturation and Health: Promising New Directions in Research](#)

Ana F. Abraido-Lanza, PhD

*Science in the Modern World Lecture Series*

**Tues., April 4**, 7 p.m.  
Natural Sciences Building, Room 1001

[Rosanne Cash](#)

**Fri., April 7, 8 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

[David Sedaris](#)

**Sat., April 8, 8 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Jazz Orchestra](#)

*Featuring special guest Ingrid Jensen on trumpet*

**Mon., April 17, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.**

Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Jazz at Lincoln Center, NYC

[Artist Talk: Dulce Pinzón](#)

**Tues., April 18, 12:30 p.m.**

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Audrey Bennett](#)

**Wed., April 19, 4:30 p.m.**

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

**Ryan Black: Reading and Q&A**

*Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellows Series*

**Wed., April 19, 6 p.m.**

Humanities Bldg., Room 2059