

# PURCHASE

PURCHASE COLLEGE MAGAZINE | THINK WIDE OPEN

FALL/WINTER 2014

**MAKING IT HAPPEN  
in NEW YORK CITY**



**Purchase College**

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## **PLUS:**

2010 Graduates Talk about the Impact of College  
... FOUR YEARS IN AND FOUR YEARS OUT

**LOOKING GOOD:** The Newly Renovated Campus  
Plaza Boasts Green Grass, Blooming Trees, and  
Open Pathways.



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BY KELLY CAMPBELL

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# [THIS MOMENT] IN TIME

By Thomas J. Schwarz



Purchase has a lot to offer, but the value of our location and its proximity to New York stand out among our greatest assets. Our students can hop on a train and thirty-five minutes later find themselves in one of the greatest hubs of ideas, culture, and commerce on the planet. Equally appealing is the ability to return to our lush campus away from the distractions of New York City to recharge, focus, and apply what's been absorbed, whether on stage or in the classroom, studio, or laboratory. In *Making It Happen in New York City*, you'll find a few of our many New York stories—alumni, students, and faculty and their connections to New York City.

Following a recent screening of the documentary film *Ivory Tower* at the Jacob Burns Film Center, I participated in a discussion about the importance in 2014 of earning a college degree. While student debt is a harsh reality and financial concern for many prospective students, it should not overshadow the benefits a college degree provides. The lifetime earning potential of four-year-degree holders far exceeds that of those who hold only high school diplomas, and their unemployment rate is less than half. The unique education that Purchase College provides—an interdisciplinary one where creativity is the essential connective tissue that holds all else together—allows our graduates to forge ahead regardless of the economic uncertainty they may face. Meet five alumni who graduated from Purchase in the spring of 2010 and see how they're faring four years later in *Four Years In and Four Years Out*.

Finally, we've proven that the old adage "It gets worse before it gets better" rings true. The unsightly construction fencing, pedestrian detours, and noise pollution our community has endured for years is almost behind us. We look forward to the reopening of the Durst Humanities Building next fall, but in the meantime, take a look at how the campus has been renovated and reimaged in the photo spread *Looking Good*.

If you haven't been here for some time, consider visiting soon—take in an exhibition at the Neuberger Museum of Art or a show at the Performing Arts Center; see the award-winning Purchase Opera or attend one of the many fascinating liberal arts and sciences lectures. While the physical landscape might have changed, the educational one has not—the core values and essence of the Purchase experience remain very much the same.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Thomas J. Schwarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Schwarz  
President

## SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



Graham Ashton

**Graham Ashton**, Music, performed as guest principal trumpet with the orchestra of the Paris Opera. The Australian embassy invited Ashton to be the music director/composer for the ANZAC Day service at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, in April 2014. In May, Ashton gave a concert with the New York Chamber Brass at the Neuberger Museum of Art, part of a new collaborative program bringing together the visual and performing arts.

**David Bassuk**, Theatre Arts, moderated a virtual roundtable broadcast called "Future of StoryTelling" (@FoSTorg) on

April 2, 2014; it was a live Google Plus Hangout discussing how technology is affecting storytelling from all angles: formal and financial, creative and critical. Bassuk's session was on game dynamics and live theatre. The participants were Felix Barrett, artistic director of the theatre company known as Punchdrunk, Jane McGonical, game designer and author of *Reality Is Broken*, Matt Adams, co-founder of Blast Theory (one of the U.K.'s most visible artists' groups using interactive media), and Jaime Robinson from the advertising agency Pereira & O'Dell.

**Matt Bollinger**, Art+Design, was granted a solo exhibition, *The Reservoir*, which was on view from March 15 through May 10, 2014, at Galerie Zürcher in Paris, France.

**Lenora Champagne**, Theatre Arts, published a review essay, "West Meets East," on Japanese theatre and dance in New York City and Tokyo, in *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art* in January 2014. A Fulbright Scholar, Champagne participated in a conference, "The Aging Body in Dance," in May at the Goethe Institute in Tokyo. Her presentation, "Embodied Nostalgia: *Girlchild* Revisited, and Other Memory Traces," consisted of an essay on seeing Meredith Monk perform *Education of a Girlchild* 35 years after she originally performed it, and Champagne performing her own solo piece, *Memory's Storehouse*.



Lenora Champagne

**Donna Dennis**, Art+Design, received the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Award of Merit medal for sculpture. The Award of Merit, accompanied by \$25,000, is given each year to an outstanding person in America representing one of the following arts, in rotation: painting, the short story, sculpture, the novel, poetry, and drama. Dennis' work was selected from the academy's *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts* (March 6–April 12, 2014). Exhibiting artists were chosen from 150 nominees submitted by the 250 members of the academy.

**Rachel Dickstein**, Theatre Arts, is the founder and artistic director of Ripe Time, which specializes in works about women. Dickstein conceived, wrote, and directed the 2014 Obie Award-winning play *The World Is Round*, which premiered at BAM in April. The play, based on Gertrude Stein's children's book of the same name, was also a finalist for the 2014 Richard Rodgers Award. (See page 7.)

**Jon Faddis**, Music, performed in Poland and was also the featured artist at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola (part of Jazz at Lincoln Center) with the Purchase Jazz Orchestra, conducted by Todd Coolman, in May 2014. (See page 8.)

## Nancy Davidson Named Guggenheim Fellow for 2014

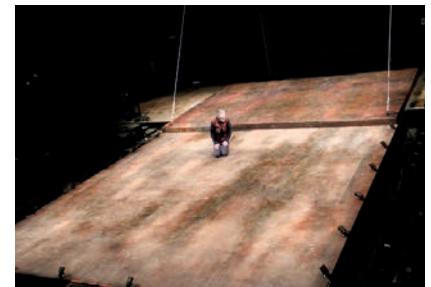
Nancy Davidson, Purchase professor emerita, was among 178 scholars, artists, and scientists awarded Guggenheim Fellowships for 2014. Davidson, who taught in the School of Art+Design at Purchase from 1984 to 2008, is an interdisciplinary artist who works primarily in sculpture and installation. She is known for her inflatable sculptures that wittily explore American iconic imagery and gender issues through abstract forms that suggest sensuous female figures. In 1992, she began to use inflated weather balloons to challenge contemporary notions of sculpture and address the issues of bodily mass, fleshiness, and beauty.

Davidson's opening night at the Robert Miller Gallery in 2001 fell on 9/11. She watched the World Trade Center towers fall from her studio window; that experience triggered a new body of work. Drawing on her memories of the cowgirl character prevalent in 1950s American culture, she came up with an irreverent reinvention, "celebrating and critiquing popular culture, comic humor, and our society's fascination with the overblown and oversized," as she puts it. The resulting work, *Dustup*, was shown at the Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, in the fall of 2012, and an expanded version was exhibited at the Boca Museum of Art in Boca Raton, FL, in 2013. Davidson is currently working on a book project, *Cowgirl: Nancy Davidson*, to be distributed by DAP Publishers.

**Joseph Ferry**, Music, is currently in production on his sixth solo reggae album, *Revival*, featuring several Purchase alumni, faculty, and staff members. Ferry is also completing his third novel, *Highlife*, which will be available on Amazon.com. Both the book and the album are expected to be released in the fall of 2014, with an international concert and reading tour to follow.

**Maria Guralnik**, Arts Management, has been named to the core faculty of the certified performing arts executive program of the University of New Orleans' graduate program in arts administration, in association with Arts Northwest and the National Association of Performing Arts Managers and Agents.

**Riccardo Hernandez**, Theatre Arts, had his design work for Theatre for a New Audience's production of *King Lear*, at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center in Brooklyn, recognized in the *New York Times*' review of the play by Ben Brantley on March 27, 2014. Hernandez also created the scenic design for a new production at the Public Theater, *The Library*, directed by Steven Soderbergh.



**Chris Kaczmarek**, Art+Design, was a panelist at the "Education, Arts, Technology (E.A.T.) Forum" on May 20, 2014, at ArtsWestchester in White Plains, in conjunction with the exhibition *STE(A)M: STEM + Art*.

**Julian Kreimer**, Art+Design, had his paintings and drawings included in *The Land Has Many Parts* at the Jane Deering Gallery in Santa Barbara, CA (Jan. 15–Feb. 15, 2014), where he participated in a roundtable with three other artists about their work. Kreimer's work was also included in *Interchanges*, a three-person exhibition held at the Virginia Center for

Latin American Art in Richmond. Additionally, he presented excerpts from his article "Painting under Obama" at a reading from the fourth edition of the art journal *Paper Monument* at Bookcourt in Brooklyn.

**Warren Lehrer**, Art+Design, was the featured guest on the KCRW (Los Angeles) radio program *Bookworm* with host Michael Silverblatt on March 13, 2014; he discussed his illuminated novel *A Life in Books: The Rise and Fall of Bleu Mobley*. His book received the 2014 IPPY Gold Medal/Most Original Concept/Outstanding Book of the Year Award at the Independent Publisher Book Awards on May 28 at Book Expo America.

**Julia Lichten** and **Carmit Rinehart Zori**, Music, gave a spring recital for the Brooklyn Chamber Music Society, where Zori is the artistic director.

**Cynthia Lin**, Art+Design, received three residency fellowships. Over the summer of 2014, Lin returned to the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH, and Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, NY, where she presented her work. During her junior faculty development leave, Lin is currently in residence at the Brown Foundation Fellows Program at the Dora Maar House in Menerbes, France.

**Steve Lubin**, Music, was invited by the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to be an artist in residence in March 2014.



Steve Lubin

**Christopher McCann**, Theatre Arts, was featured in a *New York Times* review for his work as the Earl of Gloucester in Theatre for a New Audience's production of *King Lear* at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center in Brooklyn.

**Scott McCrea**, Theatre Arts, was one of several writers to have plays published in *The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2013* (Smith and Kraus). McCrea's translation of Jean-François Regnard's *Le Joueur*, retitled *Playboy of Paris*, was presented as a staged reading by the Phoenix Theatre Ensemble at the Stella Adler Studio in New York in March 2014.

**Richie Morales**, Music, performed at the Turning Point in Piermont, NY, in March 2014 at a Monday Jazz Session along with Jeremy Katell (a former student); a review of the evening appeared in the *New York Times* on April 19.



Tara O'Connor

**Tara O'Connor**, Music, performed at the La Jolla Music Society in California with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in March 2014.

**Lenka Pichlíková**, Theatre Arts, performed a one-woman play, *Gertrude*, in April 2014 at the Joyful Noise Benefit at St. John's Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT. Pichlíková translated and adapted the play—a dramatic interpretation of Queen Gertrude, Hamlet's mother—from a Czech text by Anna Hodková.

**Pamela Prather**, Theatre Arts, served as vocal and dialect coach for two productions at the Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre in Houston: *Communicating Doors*, directed by Gregory Boyd (April 2014), and *Good People*, directed by James Black (June 2014).

**Pablo Rieppi**, Music, recently recorded percussion for the soundtrack to the feature film *Noah*, directed by Darren Aronovsky, starring Russell Crowe, with a musical score by Clint Mansell.

**Christopher Robbins**, Art+Design, in collaboration with Douglas Paulson, received the first featured "assignment" on the new PBS Digital series

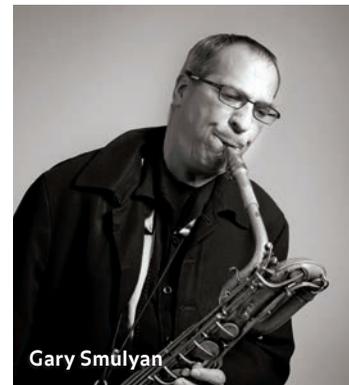
*The Art Assignment* in February 2104. In the spring, he traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego to run cross-border workshops with Casa del Migrante (a home for recently deported immigrants),

Minuteman founder Jim Gilchrist, San Diegans for Secure Borders, and the artists' group ToroLab. Robbins also traveled to south Tel Aviv, Israel, and to the Holot internment camp to develop think tanks with Eritrean and Sudanese refugees as part of a project with Ghana Think Tank and the ArtPort Gallery, a privately funded art institution in Tel Aviv, from March 16 through 24.

**Jordan Schildcrout**, Theatre Arts, was the dramaturg for *And Baby Makes Seven*, a comedy about gay and lesbian parenting by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, directed by Marc Stuart Weitz, at the New Ohio Theatre in New York City. The production ran from March 11 through April 12, 2014.

**James Austin Smith**, Music, performed 12 concerts with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York, Boston, and Chicago throughout the spring season of 2014.

**Gary Smulyan**, Music, won *Jazz Journalist*, *Jazz Times*, and *Down Beat* critics' awards for Baritone Saxophonist of the Year (2014).



Gary Smulyan

**J. Allen Suddeth**, Theatre Arts, provided the fight direction for the new production of *Aladdin* at the New Amsterdam Theatre on Broadway.

**Sarah Walker**, Art+Design, received the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Jacob Lawrence Award. Walker's work was included in the 2014 *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts* at the academy's galleries in its historic Audubon Terrace location in upper Manhattan. The \$10,000 award is given to a visual artist whose work is selected from the exhibition.

**Cal Wiersma**, Music, lectured at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, in April, and in May was a judge for the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition. He performed this past winter with the Manhattan String Quartet in the Dvorak Hall, Rudolfinum (one of the oldest concert halls in Europe), Prague, Czech Republic. Additionally, Wiersma performed with the Manhattan String Quartet at the Columbus Museum of Art, Providence College, Sarah Lawrence College, and the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York in March and April 2014.

**Anita Yavich**, Theatre Arts, created the costumes for the David Henry Hwang production *Kung Fu* at the Pershing Square Signature Center. Yavich's designs were also featured in *Tales from Red Vienna* at Manhattan Theatre Club, which ran through April 2014.

**Murray Zimiles**, Art+Design, is featured in *Contemporary Cape Cod Artists* by Deborah Forman (Shiffer Press, 2014). His work has been seen in a number of exhibitions in 2014: the Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA (Aug. 20–Sept. 14); the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth, MA (July 18–30); and the Berta Walker Gallery, Provincetown, MA

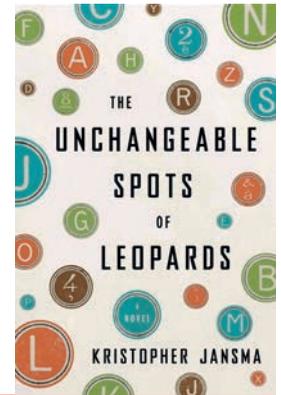
## In Memoriam: Tal Streeter, professor emeritus, Art+Design (sculpture) August 1, 1934–April 17, 2014

A legendary artist, scholar, and teacher, Tal Streeter died in April at the age of 80. Streeter joined Purchase as a professor during the college's infancy in the early 1970s, and he maintained a professional network with alumni and faculty artists, as well as a faculty post at Purchase, until officially retiring in 2000. Recognized as the first artist in the West to employ traditional kite-making techniques in contemporary art, Streeter wrote seven books about traditional and contemporary kites. Streeter's sculptures, drawings, and kites have been featured in museums, galleries, and festivals worldwide. His work is included in many public and private collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Storm King Art Center. He is also known for large sculptural works in steel and less-traditional materials such as helium balloons and fabric.

(Aug. 1–17).



Kristopher Jansma



## SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Michael Bell-Smith**, New Media, presented his work at the Bruce High Quality Foundation University as part of the Image Employment class. He also participated in a discussion at the Museum of Art and Design in March 2014 with Clemens Jahn and artist John Miller on the writings of Vilém Flusser and postdigital media critique. Bell-Smith's work was included in the exhibition *The Sunken Living Room* at Franklin Street Works in Stamford, CT.

**Laura Chimielewski**, History, presented the paper "Holy Rolling: Religious Culture and Maritime Enterprise" at the biennial meeting of the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction in February 2014 in New Orleans. Chimielewski also co-authored *The Atlantic Experience: Peoples, Places, Ideas* with Catherine Armstrong of Loughborough University, U.K.

A comprehensive overview of the Atlantic world, the book was released last winter.



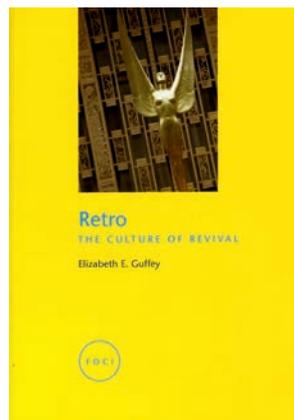
George Kraemer

**Anthony Domesticco**, Literature, published "Imagine a Carthage sown with salt': Creeds, Memory, and Vision in Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*," in *Literature and Theology* in 2014. His interview with poet Christian Wiman was published in *Commonweal* on April 16, and he recently published reviews of the following books: Jaime Clarke's *Vernon Downs* in the *Boston Globe*, and Renata Adler's *Speedboat* and *Pitch Dark* in *Commonweal*.

**Elizabeth Guffey**, Art History, was recently interviewed by DR (the Danish Broadcast Association) in conjunction with a feature on her book *Retro: The Culture of Revival*, tracking the development of retro as an idea, and the types of people and things reflected in that concept.

**Chrys Ingraham**, Sociology, presented (with Dr. Joan Dacher of the Sage Colleges) "Minding the Gap: The Textually Mediated Experience of Institutional Accessibility—Building an Institutional Ethnographic Research Model" in February 2014 at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual conference in Baltimore.

**Kristopher Jansma**, Creative Writing, earned several accolades for his novel *The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards*, which was chosen by the American Library Association as a 2014 Notable Book; received an Honorable

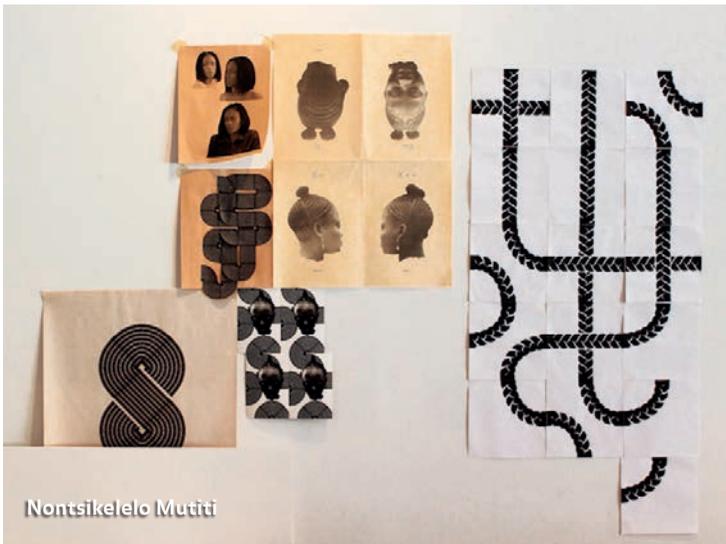


Mention for the distinguished Pen/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction; and was considered for the Carnegie Award for Excellence in Fiction. Penguin Press released a paperback edition in the spring of 2014.

**Lisa Keller**, History, was featured on WNYC radio's *Brian Lehrer Show* in August 2014, discussing suburbs and segregation.

**Mary Kosut**, Media, Society, and the Arts and Gender Studies, and **Lisa Jean Moore**, Sociology, published the article "Bees Making Art: Insect Aesthetics and the Ecological Moment," in the peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary animal studies journal *Humanimalia* on Feb. 4, 2014. (See story on page 9.) Kosut presented a paper, "Worker Bees/Working Bees: Interspecies Ethics," at the Eastern Sociological Society's annual meeting in Baltimore. Kosut and artist Mike Schreiber curated *Bad Boys*, a solo painting show of works by Zuriel Waters, at the Group Club Association in Bushwick, Brooklyn, in early 2014.

**George Kraemer**, Environmental Studies and Biology, presented a workshop, "Cultivation of Seaweeds in Long Island Sound for Food, Feeds, and Fertilizer," at the Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association's 32nd annual winter conference at Western Connecticut State University



in Danbury in March 2014.

**Steve Lambert**, New Media, wrote a very short essay responding to the question "Is there a place for satire and comedy within socially engaged art?" The essay is a part of Open Engagement's



Shaka McGlotten

"100 Questions 100 Days" blog series. He and Stephen Duncombe '88 were interviewed by Regine Debatty for we-make-money-not-art.com, about creativity, politics, and their Center for Artistic Activism. Lambert and the Post Carbon Institute published the Public Energy Art Kit (P.E.A.K.), a large-format, printed compendium of 14 posters about the challenge of tackling climate change, energy inequality, and fossil-fuel dependency. A photo of Lambert's *Sand, Ocean, Sky—The Commons* appeared on the cover of the Hudson Valley's *Chronogram* magazine in

August 2014.

**Susan Letcher**, Environmental Studies, along with her collaborators at the Chinese Academy of Forestry, X. Lu, R. Zang, Y. Ding, W. Long, and Y. Huang, has published an article, "Variations and Trade-offs in Functional Traits of Tree Seedlings during Secondary Succession in a Tropical Lowland Rain Forest," in the journal *Biotropica*.

**Sara Magenheimer**, New Media, had a video called *Seven Signs That Mean Silence* in a screening at Soloway Gallery in Brooklyn and at the Living Art Museum in Reykjavik, Iceland, in February 2014. In March, Magenheimer's sculptures were included in the *Brucennial* exhibition (sponsored by the Bruce High Quality Foundation) in New York and the Whitney Houston Biennial in Brooklyn.

**Kathleen McCormick**, Literature and Writing, had a short story, "Mrs. Daley's Diamond Ring," published in December 2013 in the weekly online journal *Crack the Spine*; McCormick's story was then chosen for inclusion in *Crack the Spine's* annual print anthology in the spring of 2014. Her short story "The Last Two Malloys" is included in *Sand Hill Review's* 2014 anthology.

**Maryann McEnroe**, Biology, co-authored a chapter, "Biology and Ecology of Long Island Sound," in *Long Island Sound: Prospects for the Urban Sea*, a 2014 publication by Springer.

**Shaka McGlotten**, Media, Society, and the Arts, is the author of *Virtual Intimacies, Media, Affect, and Queer Sociality*, released in December 2013 by SUNY Press.

**Jeanine Meyer**, Mathematics/Computer Science and New Media, led a workshop for teachers and parents, "Origami and Math: We Fold under Pressure," at the 11th annual "Explore Your Opportunities: The Sky's Your Limit" STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) conference for seventh-grade girls at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, in April 2014.

**Nontsikelelo Mutiti**, New Media, was an artist in residence at RECESS in New York from June 3 through Aug. 2, 2014. Mutiti's work *Ruka (To braid/to knit/to weave)* consisted of braiding, designing, teaching, documentation, research, and installations.

**Jason Pine**, Anthropology and Media, Society, and the Arts, published an essay, "Transnational Neomelodica Music and Alternative Economic Cultures," in the journal *California Italian Studies*. Pine guest-taught a class in a course on the television show *The Wire* and led a faculty seminar in the department of anthropology at Duke University. He was awarded a 2014–15 John C. Haas Fellowship at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, a museum and archive of chemistry and alchemy artifacts and texts in Philadelphia. Pine was also awarded a grant from the Istituto Banco di Napoli Fondazione for the Italian translation of his book, *The Art of Making Do in Naples* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012), to be published by Donzelli Editore (Rome).

**Lorraine Plourde**, Anthropology and Media, Society, and the Arts, presented a paper, "Banal Sounds: Tracking the Source of Muzak in Postindustrial Japan," at the performance studies conference "Living Labor: Marxism and Performance Studies" at NYU in April 2014. She also presented "Muzak, Mood Regulation, and Affective Labor in Postindustrial Japan" at the Society for Cultural Anthropology's biennial meeting in Detroit in May.

**Michelle Stewart**, Film and Media Studies, organized and participated in a two-day international colloquium in Marseille, France, "Narrating Urban Collectivity: Art and Activism in the City." Stewart was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Research at Aix-Marseille University. Her article "The Ethnocultural Film Festival as Media Happening: French-Maghrebi Film in Marseille" was published in *Interactions: Studies in*

# MAKING IT HAPPEN

## PURCHASE COLLEGE + NEW YORK CITY

By Kristi McKee

**On October 29, 2013, in the lead-up to the Winter Olympics in Sochi, the U.S. Olympic Committee took over Times Square for its 100 Days to Sochi event. Emblazoned across seven digital screens was a truly inspired video of Olympic athletes in visual dialogue with the Pilobolus Dance Company. Dan DeGloria '01 (visual arts) and his creative studio, Houses in Motion, helped make the piece. "It's certainly a rewarding payoff to see something you helped create on a grand scale like that," he says.**

**While amazing things happen in cities all over the world, New York City is arguably the place to be**—the place to see, work, make, play, experiment, connect, and succeed. A mecca of people, commerce, and ideas, New York has a simmering energy that attracts industry leaders, artists, journalists, scientists—thinkers of all stripes from all over the world—who in turn add their own unique spirit to the mix.



The value Purchase College derives from its proximity to the city can't be overstated. Students learn, perform, find inspiration, and land professional opportunities there. It's also a phenomenal human resource pool from which to draw faculty who are working professionals in myriad disciplines. And as the ultimate place to network, it's teeming with luminaries, prospective collaborators, and, of course, alumni. According to multiple anecdotal reports, in New York City, "Purchase people are everywhere."



## VISUAL OVERLOAD

Some may find the digital billboards in Times Square a bit overwhelming, but DeGloria sees the fruits of his labor. A graphic designer, composer, and animator, he worked in the television industry for more than ten years. Nearly three years ago, he and a colleague decided to partner and open their own business. Houses in Motion (housesinmotion.tv) is their Red Hook, Brooklyn, creative studio, focused on the moving image. The experience has been exhilarating. "Every day I learn something new; my responsibilities have multiplied, but wearing more hats has been a gratifying experience so far."

His company has done work for major brands such as Google, the Food

Network, and Sephora. For the clothing retailer American Eagle Outfitter, it creates digital content for the company's enormous electronic billboards in Times Square. Sifting through huge amounts of supplied footage, Houses in Motion creates mini-stories, which are then synched on the company's eleven panels to create monumental displays that stand more than twenty-two stories high. "I'm happy to be doing this—creating content for audiences to enjoy. It's fun and that makes me feel fortunate," he says.

## EMBEDDED IN THE FABRIC

Like Times Square, the *New York Post* is one of those emblematic New York fixtures people love and hate, which Maggie Coughlan '07 (journalism) knows better than most.

When the Rockland County native attended Purchase, she hoped to become a photo editor or photojournalist, and achieved that goal when she landed a job in hard news at AOL after graduation. An opportunity fell into her lap, however. AOL tapped her to help launch the now-defunct entertainment news site PopEater.com. A news editor position at people.com followed; then the *New York Post* approached her to become editor of page-six.com, the independent online spinoff of its infamous gossip pages. She jumped at the chance to modernize a New York institution. "I grew up in New York. I read *Page Six*. It's my guilty pleasure. And everyone else's," she laughs. "It was kind of the perfect storm. I had experience; this is a newspaper brand that's been around for more than 200 years and together I felt like we could create something that hasn't happened before on the Web for the *New York Post*," she explains.

She now refers to herself as the ultimate party guest. "The first thing someone says to me after 'How are you?' and 'What do you do?' is 'Tell me the truth about this person.'"



Maggie Coughlan '07

Ben Trivett



Sebastian Rea '12

## EMERGING FROM THE ESTABLISHED

Sebastian Rea '12 (cinema studies, political science minor) has held positions at Tribeca Enterprises—the global media company that oversees the Tribeca Film Festival, Tribeca Cinemas, and Tribeca Film—from the time he was 18 years old. He first volunteered, then interned, and serendipitously, a position opened when he was about to graduate. He's the content operations manager who oversees the production, shooting, editing, and distribution of the company's online content.

Rea is also a filmmaker. Born in Ecuador and raised in New York, he drew on his own experience as both an immigrant and a volunteer at the New York State Youth Leadership Council, an organization that helps undocumented youth get into college, to make his first feature film, *Lone Prophet*. The narrative story about undocumented immigrants in New York City and the deportation of students was his senior project, and it was screened at several festivals, including the Queens World Film Festival last March, where he was named Best Emerging Filmmaker.

From October 3 to 5, 2014, Rea presented his second 30UNDER30 Film Festival, during which several hundred viewers enjoyed the work of 30 emerging filmmakers under 30 years old. Rea conceived of the idea to showcase the quality output of young people, who sometimes get overshadowed by the larger, more established festivals. Using his Tribeca Film Festival experience, he turned what started as an ad hoc screening of his friends' films in his aunt and uncle's East Village bar into an annual festival with sponsors and celebrity jurors.

## BROADWAY DEBUT

When the curtains rose on the revival of Terrence McNally's *It's Only a Play* at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre on October 9, the marquee read "Introducing Micah Stock." Stock '11 (acting) made his Broadway debut alongside the legendary actors Matthew Broderick, Nathan Lane, Megan Mullally, Stockard Channing, and F. Murray Abraham.

"It does feel pretty surreal to see myself on a poster alongside those names—actors to whom I've looked up for years," he says. "When I thought about what my career might look like three years out of Purchase...I just wanted to be WORKING. That's gift enough in this profession."

Stock earned his Equity card when his professional career began six months after he graduated, under esteemed director Kip Fagan. "I gave a good audition, but I do think part of the reason I got the job



Micah Stock '11

was the working relationship Kip and I had built at Purchase,” Stock says. Fagan had been a lecturer in dramatic writing and directed Stock and his student company in an evening of new plays by seniors in the dramatic writing program.

The proximity of Purchase to New York City affords the students the opportunity to work with faculty who are leading professionals in their disciplines. Fagan is a fixture on the downtown theatre scene. “Our faculty by and large in School of the Arts are active in their fields in New York or they come to Purchase because they want to have a practice in New York. It’s a huge draw,” says Ravi Rajan, dean of the School of the Arts.



Ravi Rajan

### SIX DEGREES OF PURCHASE COLLEGE

In the audience watching Stock’s performance on Broadway was Rajan. Named to the Tony Nominating Committee last spring, Rajan is required to see every single Broadway production that opens in the next three years, either in previews or on opening night, to ensure that he sees every show with the original cast. With roughly 50 shows in a season that runs from August through mid-April, the average is more than a show per week. The schedule might be tough, but it definite-

ly has its privileges. “I get two tickets to every show, I can go see shows repeat times, so it’s a great opportunity to take students or friends of the college.” He regrets only that the time constraints will likely force him to skip off-Broadway shows.



Rachel Dickstein

### OFF-BROADWAY

Rachel Dickstein, visiting assistant professor of Theatre and Performance, is a veteran off-Broadway theatre artist. Her theatre company, Ripe Time, creates new performance works by blending texts with dance, movement, and music to create experimental theatre experiences. The adaptations regularly feature marginalized figures, often women, as authors and/or central characters. For *The World Is Round*, which premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in April 2014, she conceived of, wrote, and

directed the play based on Gertrude Stein’s children’s novel of the same name. *The World Is Round* won an Obie Award Special Citation for its music by Heather Christian and its lighting by Jiyoun Chang and video design by Hannah Wasileski. It was a finalist for the prestigious Richard Rodgers Award.

A professor at Purchase since 2011, Dickstein introduces her students to the New York City theatre scene every semester. “I never like to teach a class that doesn’t require attending at least one or



Todd France

Kristen Sieh performs in *The World Is Round*, directed by Rachel Dickstein, BAM, April 2014.

two productions in the city,” she says. Last fall, she took her Directing I class to see director and designer Julie Taymor’s production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Theatre for a New Audience in Brooklyn. “Seeing Taymor apply her creative genius to a classic play was incredible for the students,” she says.

For Associate Professor of Art+Design Kate Gilmore, artists’ studios and arts organizations are the classroom for visual artists in the MFA program’s Special Projects Seminar. In the fall, they visit artists in their studios, while the spring brings trips to art institutions to meet with curators, gallery directors, writers, and administrators. Experiences outside the classroom are critical. Seeing shows, visiting museums, volunteering, and meeting people help the students understand what it means to work in the arts in New York City. “It’s part of paying their dues and it’s also part of their educational process.”

Gilmore knows well what it means to be an artist in New York City. She’s been exhibiting her work in the U.S. and internationally for more than ten years, including in the 2010 Whitney Biennial. She draws on her own connections to enlist the artists who open their studios. Recent participants have included Nancy Davidson, Robert Melee, Marilyn Minter, and Alix Pearlstein. “These are very revealing conversations. In one sense it’s overwhelming and

stressful, but in another, it's really important to understand what happens—you're not just going to send your painting out into the world and that's it. This is a hard business."

Jen Hitchings '11 (painting and drawing) and Therese Daddezio '11 (painting and drawing) know just how hard business can be for visual artists. After graduation they discovered they were both living in Bushwick, Brooklyn. They moved into adjacent studios in the Active Space, a former feather factory turned artists' studio space and progressive art center. In 2013, Hitchings and Daddezio decided to partner with a third artist, Julian Jimarez-Howard, to create Associated Gallery, an artist-run exhibition space.



Jen Hitchings '11, Julian Jimarez-Howard, and Therese Daddezio '11

Hitchings describes a course called Field Trips, run by lecturer in Art+Design Sarah Walker, as a transformative experience. "It was a turning point for me. I might have no interest in the gallery world/art market if it weren't for that class and Sarah's expansive knowledge," she explains.

In September 2013, Associated Gallery mounted a quirky exhibition called *You Are My Sunshine*, a group show of plant-based art and artist/gallerist-owned plants. As Hitchings and Daddezio worked in their studio one Saturday, Roberta Smith and Jerry Saltz, two of the most prominent critics in New York, paid them a visit. Hitchings was flabbergasted. "Never in a thousand years would I have believed that I'd meet (arguably) the two most influential critics in the tiny gallery that I co-directed in my early twenties and that they would find some wacky show we put together credible," she says. A brief write-up by Saltz appeared as #4 on *New York* magazine's "To Do List for October 2-9, 2013."

Financial constraints have forced the threesome to discontinue operating Associated Gallery out of the Active Space, but they'll continue to function as a nomadic curatorial team, seeking exhibition spaces in which to realize their ideas. Before they closed the physical space, the gallery was host to the graduating class of BFA painters last spring for their exhibition *Cut/Scrape/Smear*.

## HARD NEWS

Journalism professors routinely bring students to Manhattan to get a taste of the news business. Donna Cornachio, assistant professor of journalism, and Magee Hickey, a veteran New York television reporter who was an adjunct lecturer here last spring, brought students in their junior seminar to CBS News last semester, where



they met with Scott Pelley, anchor and managing editor of *CBS Evening News* and correspondent for *60 Minutes*. For Cornachio, lessons learned inside and outside the classroom are equally valuable, even if they overlap. "Scott Pelley told them how critical it was to know what's going on in the world, to have passion and curiosity, to be relentless and fair and accurate in their pursuit of journalism. My colleagues and I drill those messages in all the time; to hear someone at the top of his game say it is music to our ears!" she explains.

## LEGENDARY VENUES

In the performing arts, the opportunity to graduate from Purchase with the credit of having performed at major New York City venues on a resume is quite a coup.

Chelsea's New York Live Arts (NYLA), an internationally known presenter of dance and movement-based art and home to the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, is a widely recognized stage on which this year's Purchase Dance Company (PDC) members perform. NYLA was home to the PDC's New York City debut in May 2013, and the dancers will return again in May 2015. The weeklong season allows for each dancer in the program to participate, and a few seniors may have the chance to present their senior project solos.

While students have many opportunities to dance while at Purchase, the program at NYLA is the pinnacle. "Dancing in that environment is a peak performing possibility and that's it. Whether it's NYLA or another well-known venue, it's New York City and that means a lot on your resume," says Larry Clark, associate professor in the Conservatory of Dance.

Since 2008, members of the Purchase Jazz Orchestra (PJO) perennially take the stage at legendary jazz venues to gain unparalleled experience playing for discerning audiences. The PJO is co-directed by two-time Grammy award-winning bass player and professor of music Todd Coolman and Jon Faddis, legendary trumpeter and professor of music.

On April 21, 2014, the seventeen-piece big band orchestra played Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola. "And not just there—PJO gets gigs at a list of New York City venues, including the Blue Note and Village Vanguard.



You're playing these places and you're rubbing shoulders with people. How cool is that?" says Graham Ashton, professor of music, director of the Conservatory of Music, and noted trumpeter.

For musicians, the time spent away from the instrument can be as instructive as time with it. Ashton describes how seeing music performed is crucial to training. "You can practice, practice, practice, and spend two or three days on something that's really tough. Then you go and hear something, a piece of music, on a different instrument even, and suddenly you know just how the piece should go," he explains.

## THE URBAN LABORATORY

Lisa Jean Moore views New York City and its inhabitants as a massive interspecies laboratory. As professor of sociology and gender studies, she was intrigued by several trends: students who were spending their summers working on organic farms in exchange for room and board, also known as "woofing" (an acronym derived from the organization World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms); the do-it-yourself farm and garden movement; and urban homesteading.

"Recent grads would move to Brooklyn and instead of having an urban lifestyle, they had a kinship to homesteading and would make beer, keep chickens or bees, and maintain gardens," she says.

Inspired by those trends and her childhood fascination with bees, she teamed up with Mary Kosut, associate professor of media, society, and the arts, and the result was *Buzz: Urban Beekeeping and the Power of the Bee*, a book that studies not only the role of bees as pollinators and makers of honey, but also the ubiquitous place they hold in our culture, as well as the New York City hipsters and urbanites tending to the hives. The book was named winner of the 2014 Distinguished Scholarship Award presented by the Animals & Society section of the American Sociological Association.

Moore's next project focuses on the Atlantic horseshoe crab, and it will take her to Plumb Beach in southern Brooklyn. The pharmaceutical industry uses the blood of these crabs to ensure that its injectable medications are free from bacterial contamination. The crabs are captured, bled, and released back into the Atlantic. "They've become a very important biomedical object. I'm interested in studying the people who study them and how the horseshoe crab makes human life meaningful," she says.

## OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Thom Widmann '90 (design/tech) chose Purchase largely for its proximity to New York City. He recognized that in his business, while other cities may have thriving resident theatres, no other city has the concentration of job opportunities that New York holds.



Lisa Jean Moore on the roof of her house in Crown Heights, Brooklyn



## SMALLS KEEPS IT REAL

By David McKay Wilson

Spike Wilner '07, who bought Smalls Jazz Club on West 10th Street in 2007 while completing his graduate studies, has provided performance opportunities for a growing number of Purchase faculty and alumni.

In September, Wilner expanded his music presence in Greenwich Village with the opening of the piano room called Mezzrow, less than a half-block from Smalls, in a renovated basement at 163 West 10th Street. The club will feature pianists, performing in duets or trios, with no horns.

"It will be a bit more adult," he says. "People will come to relax, have polite conversation, and enjoy great jazz piano. We're hoping it works in synergy with Smalls."

The Smalls website ([smallsjazzclub.com](http://smallsjazzclub.com)) features many Purchase musicians in live video and audio archives, plus live online streaming.

Purchase alumni have long flocked to the stage at Smalls. Bassist Spencer Murphy '10 leads a band every Monday night. Wilner usually plays with his trio on Tuesdays. Also playing regularly at Smalls are pianist and vocalist Champion Fulton '06, vibraphonist Behn Gillice '08, sax player Ken Fowser '08, trumpeter Wayne Tucker '09, and singer Cyrille Aimee '09.

Other Purchase alumni who have performed at Smalls (and whose live performances are included in Smalls' audio archives) include Samuel Blaser '07, Dylan Canterbury '09, Adam Cote '08, Fima Ephron '12, Paul Francis '07, Assaf Gleizner '10, Colin Gordon '10, Noah Haidu '09, Chris Haney '04, Bruce Harris '05, Theo Hill '04, Sam Lester '09, Jerad Lippi '07, Nir Naaman '11, Sam Newsome '09, John Raymond '11, Andy Stack '02, and Mike Stewart '05.

Purchase faculty members whose live performances you can listen to at the Smalls website include Eric Alexander, Todd Coolman, Hal Galper, Pete Malinverni, Doug Munro, John Riley, Kenny Washington, and Steve Wilson.



Thom Widmann '90

"Just in terms of the amount and variety of work, New York is the place to be for sure," he says.

During his senior year here, he secured an internship at Playwrights Horizons, which led to a job following graduation. "The ability to live on campus, commute into midtown, work in an off-Broadway theatre, and come back at night—that was exactly the stepping stone I hoped for," he explains. Fast forward: Widmann is now the production supervisor of *Wicked Worldwide*, overseeing all of the Broadway blockbuster's running

productions all over the world and ensuring that the experience of *Wicked* is the best it can be everywhere it's staged.

As an adjunct lecturer teaching Advanced Stage Management to juniors since 2011, he stresses the value of New York City as a network hub. "I always encourage my students to knock on the stage door after they see a show and ask to see the stage manager," he says, explaining how sometimes the stage managers have the time to talk and sometimes they don't, but those chance meetings may give the students an edge in landing a job someday.

### THE BUSINESS OF NETWORKING

Born and raised in Denmark, Naomi Luppescu '04 (dance) always wanted to be a dancer, and studying at Purchase was her first choice. Dancing wasn't her only interest, however. "I was always fascinated with theatre in general and I loved being backstage," she says. At Purchase, if she weren't dancing in a show, she would seek out opportunities to work backstage. She first got a feel for costumes in the wardrobe department here at Purchase.

As she danced professionally, she studied fashion design at SUNY's Fashion Institute of Technology and discovered she had a real passion for costume design. In 2010, she opened NaLu Designs (naludesigns.net), specializing in costumes for dance. "As dancers, we've always had costumes that couldn't really be danced in; they just weren't made for movement," she explains. "My main motivation was making costumes that I would want to dance in."

In order to build her portfolio, she started out making costumes for friends for the cost of materials. Now she's making costumes for well-known dance companies such as Alvin Ailey II, and credits fellow alumni with helping her business grow. "I'm so lucky because it's really through the Purchase network that I've gotten all of these jobs," she says. This year, she designed costumes for Elise Monte Dance. The choreographer was Tiffany Rea-Fischer '03, the company's assistant artistic director and director of operations. "We were at Purchase at the same time and now we collaborate and work together."



Naomi Luppescu '04

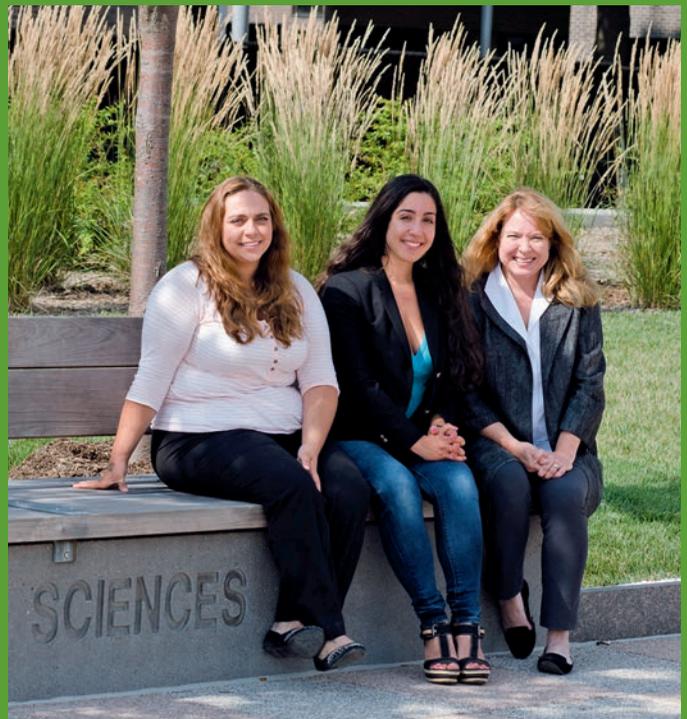
### THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

One of Luppescu's favorite things about Purchase was its ability to provide her space to focus. "I liked the fact that it was away from the city and away from distractions." Clark agrees: "It's easier for our kids to come back and be refreshed than for those kids who are in New York City all the time, being pounded by that energy."

To take full advantage of this unique location, students must strike a balance between remaining disciplined and being flexible and open to new experiences. "New scenes have developed. Things are mixing up. They should be present and available because something new in culture-making may evolve right in front of them," says Rajan.

Purchase College provides a unique value in its proximity to New York City coupled with the distance it provides students—the space to work, to think, to regroup. "The college is placed well to have the best of both worlds. We have parking lots and dormitories; we have big studios and lots of space—all things it would be difficult to have in New York," says Rajan. "It's much like a retreat experience," he adds.

For their senior projects, Juliana Campos '14 (psychology, anthropology minor), Virginia Sims '14 (psychology and philosophy, biology minor), and Lilly Murray '14 (psychology, math and computer science minor) all conducted studies with Paul Siegel, associate professor of psychology. Siegel received a major grant to study the neurobiological mechanisms of fear. The students will continue for the next two years as research assistants, conducting brain scans at the Biomedical Imaging Center at Weill Cornell Medical College in Manhattan on subjects to discover how their brains process subliminal images as the researchers work toward developing an alternative treatment for anxiety disorders.



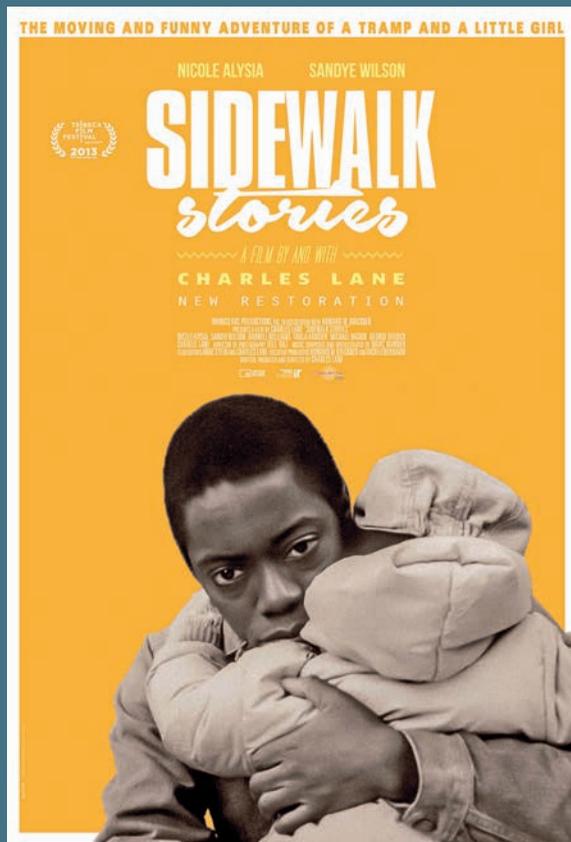
(L-R) Juliana Campos, Lilly Murray, and Virginia Sims



### Charles Lane and *Sidewalk Stories*

Well before the critically acclaimed silent film *The Artist* stacked up awards in 2012—including five Oscars—there was *Sidewalk Stories* (1989), written and directed by and starring Charles Lane '73-'80 (film). *The Artist's* writer and director, Michel Hazanavicius, cites Lane's film as a major source of inspiration.

A chance conversation with a homeless man on the subway following a Sugar Ray Leonard fight on Nov. 6, 1988, sparked the idea for *Sidewalk Stories*. Shot guerilla-style on the streets of Greenwich Village and near Lincoln Center, the film is both funny and endearing while it tackles serious social issues such as discrimination, inequality, and homelessness. "The good news is the film has legs and longevity; it was built to last. The bad news is, given the subject matter, it's still relevant, probably more so today than when I made it," Lane says.



The black-and-white film stars Lane as a homeless street artist who finds himself caring for a toddler who's been separated from her parents. The story is told entirely without intertitles—onscreen text descriptions or dialogue—to advance the plot. Marc Marder '76 composed the score and Edie Falco '86 had a small role. "The elements of the film are basic; homelessness, disenfranchised people, thou art thy brother's keeper, the protagonist's love for the little girl, and the little girl's love for him. That's all universal stuff. And because there's no dialogue, it becomes even more universal," Lane says.

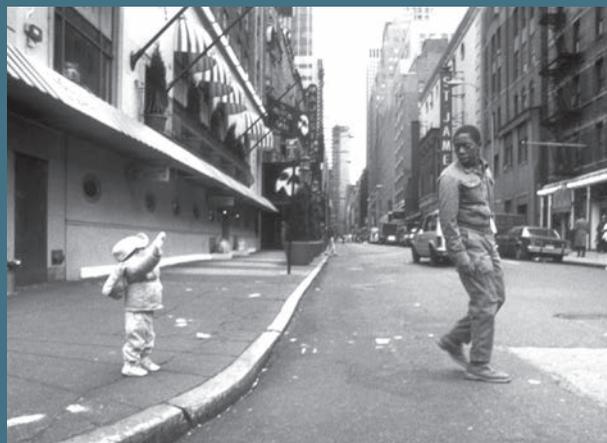
Lane entered Purchase in 1973 in part because it was close to his Bronx home, but since it was a new school, he thought it would allow him some "elbow room" to do what he wanted. "In the early days, you could take the equipment and go into New York and shoot stories. For a person like me who had ambition and liked to take the camera off-campus, Purchase was a great choice," he says.

Ironically, Lane found silent films boring as a student and routinely cut his Cinematic Expression class. However, he attended class grudgingly one day at the urging of a friend to see the Charlie Chaplin film *The Gold Rush*, and fell in love with the genre. The first silent film he made was a short called *A Place in Time* (1976), about the infamous murder of Kitty Genovese, for which he won a student Academy Award.

First released in 1989, *Sidewalk Stories* won the Prix du Publique Award at Cannes and received a record-breaking 12-minute standing ovation. Lane's star was on the rise, but some real-life Hollywood plot twists derailed his career a bit. Major studios shelved the film and it never made it to video—until now, that is. The DVD and VOD release is scheduled for Oct. 7, 2014.

Digitally restored just in time for its 25th anniversary, the film was screened at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2013 and was then shown in select theatres in the U.S. and Europe. In July 2014, the nonprofit organization Open Cinema screened the film for homeless and socially excluded audiences in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and Lane participated in live-stream Q&A sessions with the audience.

Lane hopes the renewed interest in his work bodes well for his filmmaking. In December, he plans to begin shooting a new film in the Marble Hill section of the Bronx. *Yellow Tape*, which refers to a crime scene, is a mixed-genre indie. "On the face of it, it's a comedy, but it's also a social commentary dramatic film, a romantic love story, and a horror film with murders going on," he explains. "I simply want to do something that no one has done before in mixed genres."



*The Child/Nicole Lane; The Artist/Charles Lane; Photographer: Bill Dill*

## ■ FRED GALLO HONORED AS BACKSTAGE LEGEND

On April 21, 2014, the Broadway Technical Theatre History Project at Purchase College honored technical supervisor Fred Gallo, one of theatre's most distinguished, illustrious backstage technicians, with its annual Backstage Legends and Masters Award. Gallo joins previous honorees Artie Siccardi (2012) and Arnold Abramson (2013). Gallo has been an influential force on Broadway for more than 40 years. His technical expertise has directly enhanced a host of legendary Broadway productions, including *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Producers*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Wicked*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and *Moose Murders*.



Fred Gallo

## ■ STARZ BALLET DRAMA FILMS AT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Scenes from *Flesh and Bone*, a new drama set to debut on STARZ in 2015, were shot on location inside the Performing Arts Center in late August. Filming for the series wrapped at Purchase. Created by Moira Walley-Beckett—who won an Emmy Award for her writing on the acclaimed series *Breaking Bad*—*Flesh and Bone* follows Claire, a talented but emotionally troubled dancer, as she joins a company in New York City and soon finds herself immersed in the tough and often cutthroat world of professional ballet.

## ■ COMMENCEMENT 2014

The 42nd annual Purchase College commencement ceremony was held on Friday, May 16, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Renowned independent journalist Amy Goodman and composer, performer, and educator John Zorn received honorary degrees. Jodi Long '76, an actor, writer, and producer, and Peter Powchik '79, senior vice president for clinical development and regulatory affairs at the pharmaceutical company Regeneron, were honored as distinguished alumni.

Recipients of the 2014 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence were Lauren Britton (BFA, art+design), Michaela Ellingson (BFA,



dance), and Elizabeth Pysarenko (MA, modern and contemporary art, criticism, and theory; BA, art history). Journalism major Victor Couto served as senior speaker and Rachel Weishoff performed the national anthem.



## ■ ANNA PALMER '15 WINS EPA CAMPUS CHALLENGE

By Cynthia Harder

In August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) named Anna Palmer '15 as one of only seven undergraduate and graduate students nationwide to win phase 1 of the National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)

Campus Challenge. Each year, the EPA challenges students to develop proposals for innovative research projects that will use NARS data to improve our nation's streams, lakes, rivers, and coastal areas. All seven phase 1 winners received \$2,000 and the opportunity to move on to phase 2 of the challenge.

Palmer's proposal, which doubles as her Purchase College senior project, aims to prove that an active local autonomy and a community that is educated and interested in the quality of its water—despite socioeconomic influences—will have a positive impact on our waterways, which in turn leads to better water quality.

"You need to be concerned about what's happening in your own back yard and you need to take initiative and you need to be socially responsible to protect our only environment," says Palmer.

Palmer will be invited to speak on webcasts, attend events, and have the opportunity on Dec. 19 to win the second phase of the challenge and be awarded an extra \$5,000.

Palmer was made aware of this project by Ryan Taylor, professor of environmental studies at Purchase, whom she credits as a great influence behind her work on the project.

"Dr. Taylor is really inspiring. I'm so thankful for him because this is for all undergraduate and graduate students across the United States, and I wonder how many advisors made it visible to their students and were willing to help them through the application, because it was an in-depth grant proposal. He's the bomb for figuring this out and I wouldn't be able to do it without him," Palmer says, smiling.

Currently a resident of Nyack, NY, Palmer was born in Sweden, where family members still own property, and where she spends her summers. She has always had a deep connection with the environment, and speaks of witnessing environmental degradation and seeing litter and clear-cut forests, and of how much it hurts her. She came to Purchase not knowing what she wanted to do, and when her advisor asked her what she loved and what she hated she responded, "I hate to see pollution and I hate to see litter." Her advisor suggested the environmental studies program. Palmer found her niche and truly blossomed.

Many students come to Purchase not knowing what they want to do, but when they find their passion they realize that Purchase is a place where you can take any small seed of a passion, whether it be the environment, arts, music, sports, or journalism, and turn it into something great that will propel your future.

■ **SUMMER PIANO**

Two concerts were presented in partnership with Purchase College School of the Arts Conservatory of Music and the Performing Arts Center. On July 22, Vladimir Feltsman, one of the most versatile and consistently interesting musicians of our time, presented an all-Schumann program; on Aug. 6, audiences enjoyed the awe-inspiring playing of Helen Sung, a musical iconoclast who turned from a classical prodigy into a rebellious explorer of tangents in the world of jazz.



Helen Sung



Vladimir Feltsman

■ **CHRISTOPHER BILL '14 GETS HAPPY AND GOES VIRAL**

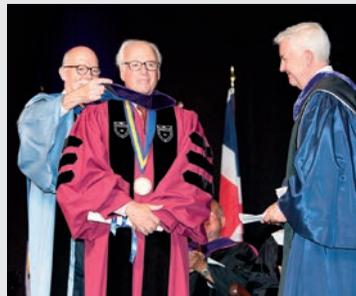
Since 2012, Christopher Bill '14 has been posting all-trombone arrangements of pop songs to his YouTube channel to track his musical progression. He developed a modest following, but when he posted a mesmerizing version of Pharrell Williams' *Happy* last spring, the video went viral and amassed more than 1.3 million views in six months. Bill masterfully uses a loop to layer sounds, creating a rich background, including percussion.



Christopher Bill '14

■ **PRESIDENT SCHWARZ RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE**

President Thomas J. Schwarz received an honorary degree from his alma mater, Hamilton College, at its commencement ceremony on May 25, 2014. He graduated in 1966 with a BA in economics and went on to earn a law degree, cum laude, from Fordham. Schwarz joined the Hamilton College Board of Trustees in 1987. In 1999, he served as Hamilton's acting president.



■ **JENELLE FIGGINS '11 NAMED A 2014 PRINCESS GRACE AWARD WINNER**

The Princess Grace Foundation–USA announced the winners of the 2014 Princess Grace Awards, and Jenelle Figgins '11 (dance) received a coveted Dance Fellowship.

Figgins is currently a company member with Dance Theater of Harlem and has been featured in works by Sarah Mettin, Kevin Thomas, Emily Molnar, Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor, George Balanchine, Nora Reynolds, and Hinton Battle. She has danced professionally with Mettin Movement Collective, Collage dance Collective, and Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montréal.

"The Princess Grace Awards recognize the talent of individual artists in theater, dance, and film.... Scholarships, apprenticeships, and fellowships give emerging artists the financial assistance and encouragement to focus on artistic excellence; monetary support for the nominating organizations eases fundraising challenges, directing resources toward the creative process," according to the foundation's website.



Jenelle Figgins in Ulysess Dove's *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven* (Photo: Rachel Neville).

Figgins' identical twin sister, Samantha Figgins '11, also graduated from the Conservatory of Dance here and is currently a company member with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

■ **JONAH KAPLAN '93 WINS EMMY AWARD**

Congratulations to Jonah Kaplan '93 (film) for winning a Creative Arts Emmy Award for his work as a series producer on HBO's *Vice* in the category Outstanding Informational Series or Special during the Aug. 16 ceremony.

The 2014 Creative Arts Emmy Awards honored guest performers on television dramas and comedy series, as well as the many talented artists and craftspeople who work behind the scenes to create television excellence.



Executive producer of *Vice* Shane Smith tweets a photo of himself (right) with Jonah Kaplan (left) following their win.

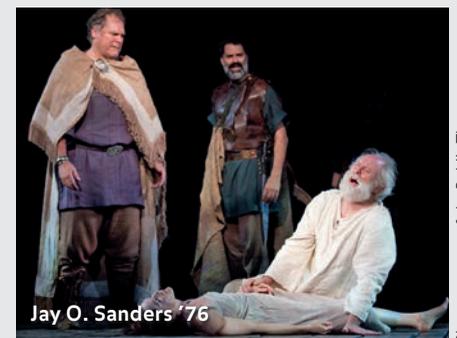
Jonah Kaplan is an editor and producer, known for *Stalker Guilt Syndrome* (2002), *Getting Made: The Making of GoodFellas* (2004), and *A Shot at the Top: The Making of The King of Comedy* (2002).

Edie Falco '86 earned her fifth Emmy nomination in the category Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for her role as Jackie Peyton in Showtime's *Nurse Jackie*.

■ **JAY O. SANDERS '76 SHINES IN KING LEAR**

Jay O. Sanders '76 played the Earl of Kent to rave reviews in *King Lear* during New York's perennial summer favorite—the Public Theater's free *Shakespeare in the Park*.

The Conservatory of Theatre Arts was well represented by both Sanders and Jeff Croiter '93, whose lighting design was described by the *New York Times*' Ben Brantley as "fabulous" and "transformative."



Jay O. Sanders '76

Photo courtesy of the Public Theater and Joan Marcus.

## ■ PURCHASE MAKES THE BEST OF THE “BEST OF” LISTS

### *U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges, 2015 Edition*

Now in their 30th year, *U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges* rankings are based on graduation and retention rates, assessment of excellence, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance, and alumni giving.

Purchase is listed as one of the “Top 10 Public Liberal Arts Colleges” in the nation and a “Tier 1 National Liberal Arts College” in the 2015 rankings.

### *The Princeton Review’s Best 379 Colleges, 2015 Edition*

Purchase College is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education, according to the Princeton Review. The education services company features the school in the new 2015 edition of its annual flagship college guide, *The Best 379 Colleges*.

### *Fiske Guide to Colleges 2015*

Purchase College is among the 300 schools chosen to appear in the *Fiske Guide to Colleges 2015*, a selective, subjective, and systematic look at 300+ colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain. The guide cites the “personalized, diverse education,” “raw energy,” and “engaged, extremely qualified” professors found at Purchase.

### *The Hollywood Reporter’s Best Drama Schools*

*The Hollywood Reporter* asked 60 top casting directors and agents to name the best drama schools in the world and Purchase College ranked 20 on its list of the “25 Best Drama Schools” in 2014.

## ■ STUDENTS AND ALUMNI RECOGNIZED BY SUNY

### *Best of SUNY Art Exhibition*

The work of three recent graduates earned places in this year’s *Best of SUNY* juried art exhibition. Works of art by Class of ‘14 painting and drawing majors Kyle Breitenbach, Nora Fantry, and Stephanie Manzi were on view at the New York State Museum in Albany until Aug. 31.

Breitenbach earned an Honorable Mention for his submission, *Untitled (11–5)*, a 60-inch-square painting on canvas.

### *Three Recognized for Athletic and Academic Achievement*

Purchase College student-athletes—Kevon Kareem Bruce ‘14 and current sophomores Andrew Latona and Emma Yavel—were among 83 students from across the SUNY system recognized for a combination of athletic and academic achievement.



Kevon Kareem Bruce '14

## ■ CRYSTAL NARAIN '14 LANDS WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP

Crystal Narain '14 (political science) was a junior in high school when politics first caught her attention. “I became fascinated with the 2008 election. I was constantly researching and writing papers on the campaign about both candidates,” she recalls.

Her fascination grew. She interned at the United States Supreme Court in 2012 and then for Senator Chuck Schumer in 2013. This past summer, she earned a spot in the highly competitive White House Internship Program. She interned in the Office of the First Lady, coordinating responses to the First Lady’s mail and conducting research on Michelle Obama’s initiatives—Let’s Move to combat childhood obesity and Reach Higher to encourage young people to further their education past high school.

A native of New City, NY, Narain transferred to Purchase in the spring of 2012 in part for its small and intimate class sizes and for the traditional liberal arts experience. “Purchase is known for its conservatory-based arts programs, but little do people know that its political science department has outstanding faculty and classes,” she says.

“Crystal Narain was one of the very few students I have had over the years who could not only grasp the ‘big picture’ surrounding the role of the Supreme Court, but was especially insightful in her understanding of the impact of court decisions and the sophisticated reasoning embodied in court opinions,” says Connie Lobur, associate professor of political science and Narain’s mentor. “Her mature and conscientious approach to her work makes her an excellent candidate for future professional success.”

With experience interning in all three branches of government, Narain just landed a job as a marshal’s aide at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, DC. She hopes the time she’ll spend in the courtroom will clarify her path: a law degree or a master’s degree to work on improving specific government policies. If she had to choose today, she says that immigration would be her policy of choice.



Crystal Narain '14



Andrew Latona studies jazz guitar performance and is a member of the men's swim team.

Bruce was a member of the men's volleyball team and graduated last May with a major in theatre and performance and a minor in playwriting and screenwriting. He capped his Panther career by earning a spot on the All-Skyline second team.

Latona, from Silver Spring, MD, competes in men's swimming and studies jazz guitar performance in the Conservatory of Music. He was named both a Skyline Conference Men's Swim Rookie of the Week in February and the 2013-14 Skyline Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year for men's swimming in June.

Brooklyn native Yavel, a psychology major, competes in women's tennis. In October 2013, she earned the Skyline Conference Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week award.



Emma Yavel and Lilly Murray

**SUNY'S THAYER FELLOWSHIP AND PATRICIA KERR ROSS AWARD**

Two 2014 graduates received SUNY-wide awards for achievement intended to bridge SUNY study in the arts and entry into a professional career in the arts. Madeline Mondrala '14 (music) received \$4,000 from the Thayer Fellowship and Gina Mingione '14 (creative writing and literature) received the \$1,000 Patricia Kerr Ross Award.

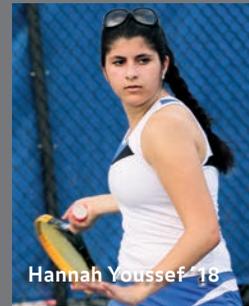


Gina Mingione (left) and Madeline Mondrala (right)

**PURCHASE PANTHERS SPOTLIGHT**

**16-YEAR-OLD YOUSSEF ON FAST TRACK TO STARDOM IN TENNIS, MEDICINE**

By Bobby Ciafardini



Hannah Youssef '18

With an ambitious eye toward the future, Purchase College freshman Hannah Youssef is already ahead of the game. The newest member of the Panther women's tennis team, the 16-year-old skipped second grade and graduated from high school early. Her plan: "Become a doctor."

Previously a standout tennis player at Carmel High School, Youssef is now playing on the court for the Panthers and looking to take her biology major on to premed.

Youssef arrived at Purchase with a host of accolades—feats made even more impressive by her age. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society, an F. Dill Scholarship recipient, and a success on the tennis team. She served as a member of the Putnam County Youth Board, the Putnam Sheriff Cadets, and the NYS Senator Advisory Board.

"We are very happy to have Youssef here at Purchase. She's a strong, talented young woman, both on the tennis court and in the classroom," says Purchase head tennis coach Andreea Oncioiu. "Her determination is remarkable."

The newest Panther said she chose Purchase for several reasons. "The tennis program here has been very successful recently," she says. "I spoke to many of my biology professors before I made my decision and I really liked what they had to say and what the program is all about here. My family is close by—I love that—and several of my friends from high school are here at Purchase, too. It was a win-win for me all the way around."

**INTRODUCING: CASA PURCHASE**

Casa Purchase, an outreach center for Latin American studies in Port Chester, is one new initiative meant to reinvigorate and mature Purchase's relationship to local communities. The mission is to reach out to the local Latino population to work collectively in those areas they define as most important.

"We want Casa Purchase to weave together the educational, artistic, and research opportunities of our college with the needs of our local residents and officials, their schools, and their organizations," says Leandro Benmergui, assistant professor of history and director of Casa Purchase.

Port Chester is home to community members with fascinating and complex life experiences and a desire for a better life. Casa Purchase hopes to harness the energy on campus to transform not only the lives of our neighbors, but the lives of our students as well.

Purchase students will engage with the center through internships and volunteer work with established community organizations, and through research projects, art projects, and oral histories.

"These dynamic efforts highlight the innovations that are at the heart of strategic advancement at Purchase College," says Provost Barry Pearson.

Photo: Lauren Berthelot

## ■ COMING SOON: GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE ARTS

Purchase will launch an MA in Entrepreneurship in the Arts—the first degree in the country that focuses exclusively on creating new entities in the arts sector—in the fall of 2015. The program will provide graduates with the skills to create arts ventures and act as entrepreneurs, along with an in-depth foundation in management and leadership skills.

“This visionary degree program will enable graduates to identify, imagine, and build enterprises that will create and sustain the arts marketplace of tomorrow,” says Purchase College President Thomas J. Schwarz. “It will address a critical need for creative leadership in both the commercial and not-for-profit arts and culture sectors.”

According to Ravi Rajan, dean of the School of the Arts, “The program is designed to empower the emerging generation to be leaders who will redefine the arts through innovation. It will foster a ‘meta synergy’ by equipping graduates with a unique blend of idea generation, marketing, policy, management, and financial skills to apply to the creation of new entities for the arts.”

James Undercofler, professor and chair of the Department of Arts

Management and Entrepreneurship, spearheaded the design of the new program, following many years of his leading both schools and professional arts organizations. “With its visionary leadership and world-class arts programs embedded together with a college focused on liberal education, Purchase College is the ideal institution to offer this degree,” he says. “We anticipate that this new program will be a galvanizing force campus-wide, as well as helping to redefine the arts world.”

Courses in the one-and-a-half-year degree program will feature a core of three courses in arts entrepreneurship, plus those in leadership and management techniques, fund development and financing for the arts, digital marketing, and law and the arts. Students will be guided into deep thinking about the arts and culture worlds, then create entirely new ideas, which will then be developed into their own new enterprises.

Examples of these new ventures could include: organizations that deliver services, companies that build devices, and even organizations that reimagine the arts disciplines and how they interact with society.

The new degree program received final approval from the New York State Education Department in September 2014.

## ■ THE CALM

Four 1970s Purchase artists reconnected over the past year to form a painters’ group called the CALM, which meets monthly to paint landscapes and explore the nature of their art.

“When you paint together, you challenge each other,” says Abbie Rabinowitz ’79, of Bethany, CT, who found her classmates in 2012 after moving back east from northern California and is pursuing a master’s degree in painting at Western Connecticut State University. “You critique each other’s work, and gather momentum for your own.”

The acronym CALM is derived from the first name of each painter: Clay Fried ’79, Abbie Rabinowitz, Laura Levine ’77, and Mark Patnode ’78.

Patnode, of New London, CT, who serves on the executive board of the Purchase College Alumni Association, says he reconnected with Levine on Facebook. He was also in touch with Fried, and they had talked about painting together. Then Rabinowitz found Fried.

“We go back to ideas developed 40 years ago,” says Fried, of Yorktown, NY, who teaches art at the Ben Franklin Elementary School in his hometown. “We’ve become muses of sorts for each other. The group has become a source of inspiration we dip into.”

The CALM experience has transformed their work, and practice, in important ways. Says Fried: “I have relearned from Abbie to stay open to a painting’s potential, the significance of well-chosen, quality materials from Mark, and the dialog surrounding a painting’s status as ‘complete’ from Laura.”

Levine, of Old Saybrook, CT, says her work loosened up and became more open. She also trusts herself more. “I am trying not to overwork my paintings,” she says.

Their first meeting was in 2013, at the sprawling Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton, CT, which commemorates the life and work of impressionist painter J. Alden Weir.

In July, the members of the CALM gathered along Long Island Sound at Silver Sands beach in Milford for a day of painting on the Connecticut shore. They came toting canvases, easels, tubes of sun-block, and hats with wide brims to shield them from the midday sun.



Abbie Rabinowitz '79, Mark Patnode '78, Laura Levine '77, and Clay Fried '79

They began by talking about the light, observing the brightness of the sand, and the perspective they’d gain by setting up on a nearby dune. Then they got to work, with great enthusiasm.

“There was an exciting give-and-take,” recalls Fried. “There’s a creative nuclear fission when we get together

and we start painting at a feverish pace. Sometimes we’ll knock off three or four paintings. And I’ve sold work right off the easel.”

Levine, who grew up with Fried in Freeport, Long Island, says the CALM’s camaraderie has provided a spark of inspiration. In August, she and Fried had works in a show at the Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining, NY. She and Patnode were among 30 Connecticut artists selected for a juried show in August at the Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery in Stamford. Levine painted a portrait of the CALM quartet, seated on a couch: three perused art books, while Patnode peered into his laptop.

“By working together, we’ve realized more about what we are about,” says Levine. “By working together and questioning each other, it helps us figure out who we are, and pushes me to go another step. We fuel each other.”

They also tap into the foundation laid four decades ago, in the Purchase art studios on Anderson Hill.

“Clay, Abbie, Laura, as compadres, take the aspect even further in that we all share that common bond of the Purchase experience,” Patnode says. “It’s always refreshing to go back to the well of basics, but also enjoy the matured input of each. Self-critiques are always a challenge for me, but having their input enriches the whole experience.”

COLLEGE STUDENTS TYPICALLY FINISH THEIR DEGREES IN FOUR YEARS. IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THE CLASS OF 2010 LEFT PURCHASE TO VENTURE OUT INTO THE WORLD. PURCHASE MAGAZINE CHECKED IN WITH A RANDOM SAMPLING OF 2010 GRADUATES TO SEE WHERE THEY ARE AFTER...



# FOUR YEARS IN AND FOUR YEARS OUT

By Kristi McKee





**Kaitlyn Haubrich**

**Major:** Arts Management

**Originally from:** College Point, Queens

**Currently living in:** Lower East Side, Manhattan

**Occupation:** Entrepreneur/Vice President and Chief of Sales for Third Rail Beer

**Kaitlyn Haubrich landed a job after graduation as the wellness and administrative coordinator at the May Center of the 92nd Street Y. She moved on to the promotions department at Atlantic Records, assisting the executive vice president, senior vice president, and vice president for nearly three years. Now, she's in the midst of launching the beer company she and two others started; it's called Third Rail Beer.**

**What are you doing currently? Does it relate to your studies at Purchase?**

**RH:** I am currently vice president and chief of sales for Third Rail Beer, a New York City craft-beer brand that launched Aug. 23. Recently I have tapped into management and business-planning skills learned in my time at Purchase to develop financing, licensing, and a business model for Third Rail.

**Are you satisfied with what you're doing currently? On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your current situation?**

**RH:** I am working really hard to be at a hard 10 in the near future. Being a business owner is bringing on new challenges and stresses unlike any other. I am thrilled to be in my situation and wouldn't change it for anything.

**Did you have a vision for your life ahead when you entered Purchase in the fall of 2006? Does your reality now resemble that vision?**

**RH:** I entered Purchase as a freshman in 2006 completely blind. I had no idea what I wanted to do or who I wanted to be. In fact, I didn't pick my major until sophomore year. After graduating I was fully prepared to enter the workforce but I wasn't initially sure of which path I would take. As assertive and focused as I was with having a career, I lacked any real passion or goals. It wasn't until now, four years after graduating, that I found a clear picture of where I would like to be.

**If you could repeat either the four years you were at Purchase or the four years since you graduated, which would you choose and why?**

**RH:** No brainer—I would choose to repeat my four years at Purchase. The time for friends and relaxation was invaluable. I wish I had a fraction of the communal environment that I enjoyed at Purchase.

**What was your best moment/biggest success in the time since you graduated?**

**RH:** Finding the courage to leave a steady job to start something of my own.

**Name one thing the last four years have taught you that you wished you knew before you graduated.**

**RH:** How to have self-confidence. I wish I had taken some sort of public speaking to help build my confidence. After four years in pretty intense work environments I am slowly starting to find my voice.

**What is your fondest memory of Purchase? Anything you miss about it?**

**RH:** I miss my friends. Having kids knock on my window at various times of the day to go to the Hub or hang in the quad is something I took for granted. Now, I need to schedule a quick bite with someone weeks in advance.

**Where would you like to see yourself four years from now?**

**RH:** I will hopefully be opening my own brick-and-mortar brewery (we currently brew with partner facilities) in New York City and starting a family.



**Tara Kutz**

**Major:** Journalism

**Originally from:** Bark River, MI

**Currently living in:** Harlem, Manhattan

**Occupation:** Graduate Student



**After graduation, Tara Kutz struggled a bit to find a full-time job in the New York area, so she took a paid internship in Washington, DC, at Campus Progress (now known as Generation Progress), an advocacy organization under the umbrella of the Center for American Progress, which targets millennials. The internship turned into a six-month contract, which then turned into a full-time job. She stayed there for three years as a communications associate before leaving for graduate school. She's also dedicated to making documentary films.**

**What are you doing currently?**

**TK:** I just finished a graduate certificate program at the New School in documentary studies. It was a one-year intensive, and it was great; I really enjoyed it. They offer the option to transfer all credits earned in the certificate program into their master's program in media studies, so I just decided to continue and get my master's. Classes start in the fall.

I'm also working part time along with taking classes. I'm doing communication design work for a voter education organization called the Campus Election Engagement Project, and also freelance video work. I'm hustling. [She laughs.]

**Are you satisfied with what you're doing currently? On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your current situation?**

**TK:** I would rate it an 8. Aside from the debt that I'm getting into with going back to graduate school, I'm having a blast. I enjoy academia, I enjoy being in the classroom. It's not a 10 because I'm hustling and getting in debt and just making it in terms of paying the rent. But I'm enjoying it.

**If your answer above is anything less than 10, describe your dream job/career in 140 characters or less.**

**TK:** What I'd really like to do is start a documentary/media center and run it like an after-school program for high school students. It's an idea that's been brewing in my mind for many years. I was able to do a video-editing tutorial when I was in junior high and it really sparked my interest in film and video.

**If you could repeat either the four years you were at Purchase or the four years since you graduated, which would you choose and why?**

**TK:** That's a tough question, but I would probably want to relive my four years at Purchase. I know this is going to sound corny, but there's so much at Purchase that I didn't really take advantage of. I feel like I could have taken advantage of a lot more that was available.

**What was your best moment/biggest success at Purchase?**

**TK:** I was in the a cappella groups Choral Pleasure and Soul Voices. One year Pete Malinverni had written an absolutely beautiful suite for the Purchase Jazz Orchestra to play along with the Soul Voices choir and we performed it at Symphony

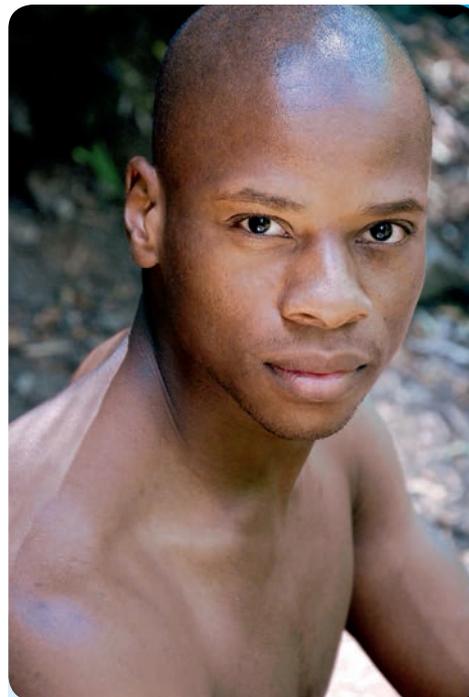
Space here in the city and it was just a blast. I loved all of the stuff that Purchase had to offer in terms of the fine arts. I was a journalism major but I was still able to perform—the jazz program at Purchase is amazing and there are some really fantastic musicians, so to perform in the city with them was really cool.

**What was your best moment/biggest success since you graduated?**

**TK:** When I was doing video work at Campus Progress, we made a sensational advocacy video based on Justin Bieber to convince people to register to vote. The premise was that Justin Bieber was only 16 and not old enough to vote—let alone that he was Canadian—so you should vote in his place. It was totally silly and got a ton of press pick-up and Jay Leno actually mentioned it in his monologue on the *Tonight Show*. So that was pretty cool, to have my video mentioned by Jay Leno.

**What is your fondest memory of Purchase? Anything you miss about it?**

**TK:** A lot of things, but I think I miss the general “anything goes” attitude at Purchase—and you can take that however you mean it, whether it's fashion, or your behavior, or what you're studying, or what you're talking about. I think, as corny as it sounds, the motto “Think wide open” was pretty true in my case. I miss the safety of living in a community like that. And the parties, too, even the school-sanctioned ones like the Halloween dances and the Zombie Prom. It was just a really cool place.



**James Boyd**  
**Major: Dance**  
**Originally from: Jacksonville, FL**  
**Currently living in: Uptown Manhattan**  
**Occupation: Dancer**

**James Boyd has been dancing nonstop since graduation, for almost four years with a company called Bad Boys of Dance. He made it to the semifinals with an offshoot of that company, the Bad Boys of Ballet, on NBC's America's Got Talent. He's also freelancing and selling for a company called Life Vantage.**

**Are you satisfied with your current situation? On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate what you're doing currently?**

**JB:** 10.

**Did you have a vision for your life ahead when you entered Purchase in the fall of 2006? What did it look like? Does your reality now resemble that vision?**

**JB:** I actually didn't have a vision when I started. I knew I would be successful no matter how the terrain altered ahead. I was raised with the mindset of "hard work will pay off, and persistence in a race that's slow and steady will always win." My junior year is when I illustrated a goal in my head. I planned to have a job by the time I graduated. I grew an infinite dancing monster in my head. This monster pushes me every day and is my ultimate competitor and is why I'm at a high caliber today.

**If you could repeat either the four years you were at Purchase or the four years since you graduated, which would you choose and why?**

**JB:** I would repeat the four years after graduation. My time in college was as predictable and scheduled for me as the past four years have been the complete opposite. School had a limit, and now I don't...

**What was your best moment/biggest success at Purchase? What about in the time since you graduated?**

**JB:** My biggest success at Purchase was graduating! As for after graduation ... well, I haven't accomplished my biggest success yet. ;-)

**Name one thing the last four years have taught you that you wished you knew before you graduated.**

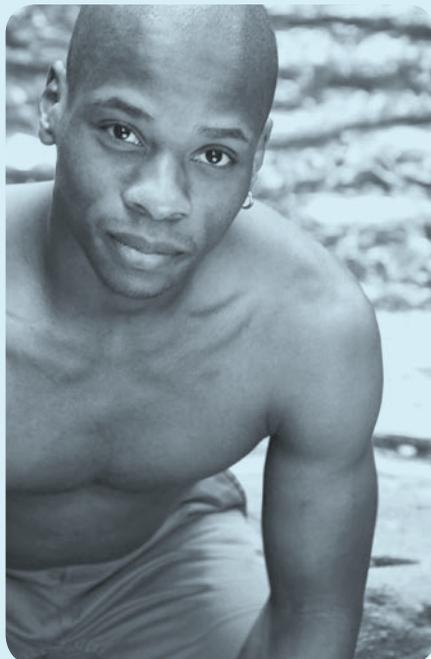
**JB:** "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." Winston Churchill.

**What is your fondest memory of Purchase? Anything you miss about it?**

**JB:** I miss all of the connections I made. All my friends I really never get to see anymore. It's a good thing we have Facebook, but social media will never fill the shoes of the friends I made at Purchase.

**Where would you like to see yourself four years from now?**

**JB:** I would like to see myself married and thinking about kids; also at the peak of my career in dance and business. It's only a matter of time....



**Sean Ryan Jennings**

**Major: Design/Tech**

**Originally from: Spring, TX**

**Currently living in: Atlanta, GA**

**Occupation: Art Director and Set Designer for Films/Entrepreneur**

**Sean Ryan Jennings got his first taste of the film industry during the summer after freshman year at Purchase. After working tirelessly as an intern on a film set, halfway through the production he earned a paid position as a production assistant. He arrived in Atlanta for a three-month project after graduation, but one film turned into another, and turned into another, so he let the lease on his New York apartment expire and he's been there ever since. The current tax incentives offered in Georgia and Louisiana are the largest in the country, so there's an explosion of film work there. "It's the Hollywood of the South," says Jennings.**

**What are you working on now?**

**SJ:** I just wrapped up doing the third and fourth *Hunger Games* films. I was the assistant art director on that for about eight or nine months. We filmed the third and fourth simultaneously. Now I'm designing some sets for a 1920s-period New Orleans film called *Bolden*. I've actually been getting more into the period stuff. I art directed the miniseries *Bonnie and Clyde* last year, which we filmed in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

I am driven, to say the least, at all times, and I started two companies in the last year.

I started a production services company down here in Atlanta with a buddy of mine called Sub-Lemon Production Services. Every art department on any film rents equipment, namely large-format printers and plotters. They're super-expensive, so we bought a few used ones and we rent them out. For example, we had our best plotter rented to the *Hunger Games*, the second, third, and fourth ones, so they had it rented out for

almost two years. After about eight months, that plotter was paid off and the rest was just profit.

Then I started another production company this year called Glass Tree Studios. That's kind of my baby right now. I've developed a really close-knit team of people and we just started to do our own projects in short films.

**Are you satisfied with what you're doing currently? On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your current situation?**

**SJ:** I'm at about an 8. I love what I do professionally but my passion has kind of shifted in the last year or so.

**If it's anything less than 10, what's your dream job in 140 characters or less?**

**SJ:** I write a lot and eventually I'd like to be writing, producing, and directing my own feature films.

**What was your fondest memory of Purchase? Do you miss anything?**

**SJ:** I miss the relationships that were forged there and the people I grew almost family-like bonds with. I miss living in the Olde with five guys and having a party every Friday night.

**Where do you see yourself four years from now?**

**SJ:** I hope—actually I don't hope, I know—that we're going to have some hit short films at some festivals within the next two years, and there's no doubt in my mind that we're going to drum up at least a few studios or producers who want to see us make some feature film projects.

**my way." She then got accepted into an English-language teaching program called the JET Programme and has been teaching in Tokyo for almost three years now.**

**Please describe what you're doing currently. Does it relate to your studies at Purchase?**

**SK:** I got accepted into the JET Programme. It pays well and it's a great experience, so I took off to Japan! It's a full-time job, and the contract is yearly. However, you can only do a maximum of five years. It's definitely not related to opera, but sometimes I use music to teach my students English. I also throw together concerts at swanky places in Tokyo with my JET friends who also studied music in college. There are not many of us....

**Are you satisfied with your current situation? On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate what you're doing currently?**

**SK:** I would give my current situation an 8. It was definitely my dream to come to Japan, but it wasn't my dream to teach English. I'd prefer to teach music again. But I've got it really good having a job at all these days, and it's a great job to boot, with all the benefits like health insurance and paid vacation days.

**If your answer above is anything less than 10, describe your dream job/career in 140 characters or less.**

**SK:** I would love to teach music and/or run a music-lesson studio. Perhaps I could even run some of it online, like Skype-based singing lessons, so I could do it from anywhere in the world.

**If you could repeat either the four years you were at Purchase or the four years since you graduated, which would you choose and why?**

**SK:** Ooooo, that's a tough one.... I have definitely had more confidence and stability in my life since graduating that I wouldn't want to give up. However, it would be so tempting to go back in time and live through college again. The friends, the fun, the learning, the lack of responsibility, the parties ... I could do all that again!

**What is your favorite thing to do outside work? How do you spend your free time?**

**SK:** One of my favorite things to do here is karaoke. It's not like karaoke back home where you stand up drunkenly in front of a bunch of strangers and belt out Katy Perry. It's more of a group activity. You get your own room for your group, two microphones, tambourines, and usually party lights that flick on while you're singing. (Pretty hi-tech.) You still do it drunkenly, of course.

**Where would you like to see yourself four years from now?**

**SK:** I would love to be debt free by then, but I think it's going to take a bit longer than that.... I think I'd like to be teaching music again, living comfortably, and able to travel to lots of different places. But wherever I am, or whatever I do, I just want to be happy!

**Samantha Kelley**

**Major:**  
Opera Performance

**Originally from:**  
Vernon, CT

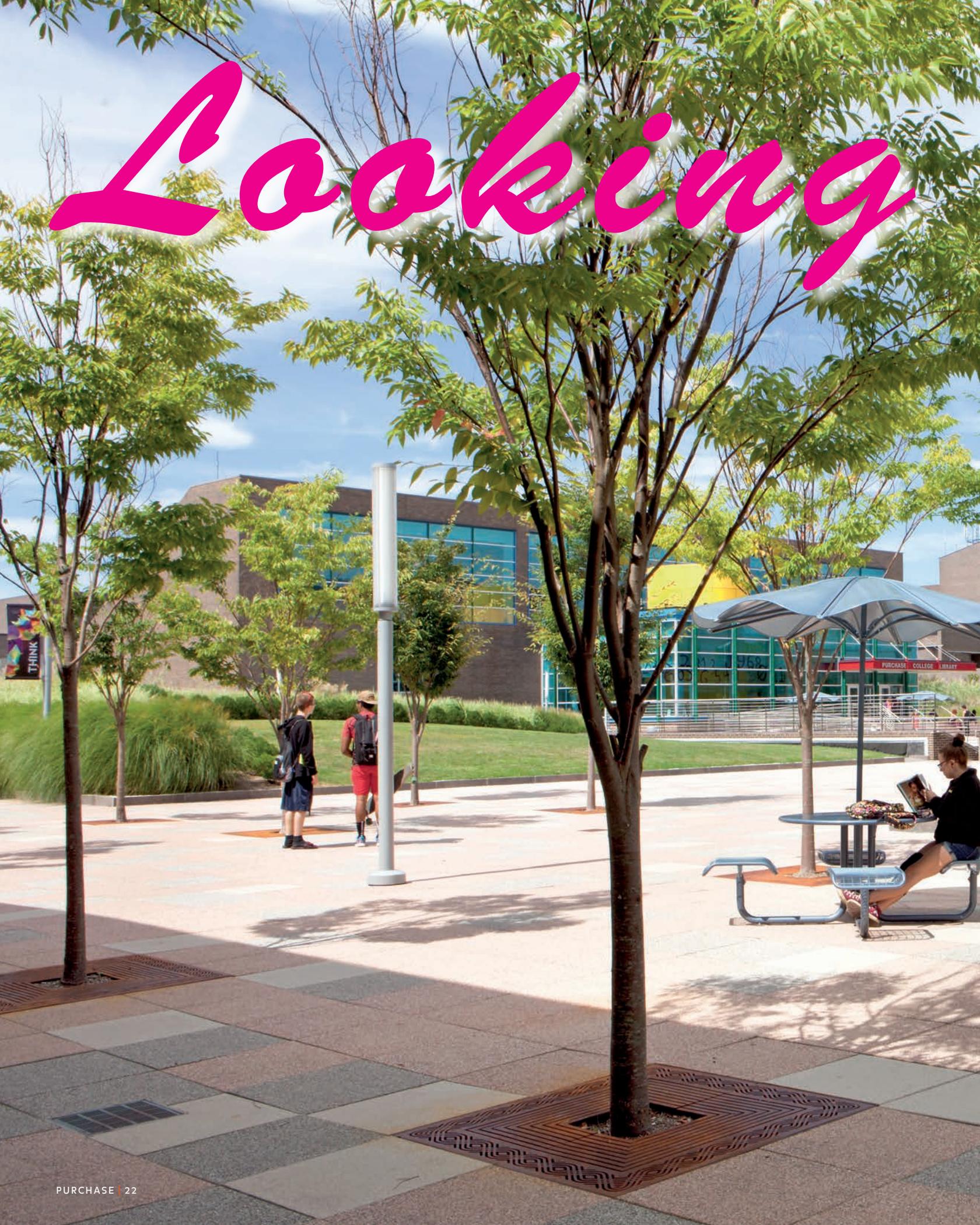
**Currently living in:**  
Tokyo, Japan

**Occupation:** Teacher



**For a year and half after graduation, Samantha Kelley held three different jobs to earn enough money to pay her bills. "Quite an eclectic collection of jobs as well: treat team specialist at Rita's Italian Ice (I love that title); voice and piano teacher at a private studio; and compounding pharmacist at a pharmacy that specialized in making hormone creams," she says. "My student loans are through the roof, like many other people's, so I worked as much as I could at whatever job came**

# Looking



# Good!



## *Greetings from Purchase.*

*If you haven't been on campus in a while, you probably would never guess this shot was taken from in front of Campus Center South. Green grass, blossoming trees, and clean pathways have replaced the loud noise and mess of construction that consumed the Purchase plaza over the past several years. The Durst Humanities Building is scheduled to reopen next fall, and lots of other projects are under way. Stay in touch on Facebook or visit [purchase.edu](http://purchase.edu) to keep up with the changes.*

*Better yet, come visit.*

## Dear Alumni and Friends:

Start spreading the news... "Making It Happen" features a few of the many connections linking Purchase College and New York City. It showcases alumni, faculty, staff, and students who've stormed the city that never sleeps to learn, network, and draw inspiration on their journeys. We learn, however, that a singular strength of Purchase is the physical and mental space away from the city it affords students to relax and recharge.

Remember 2010? The U.S. economy was in the throes of the Great Recession and job prospects for recent graduates were grim. Five alumni from the class of 2010—chosen at random—agreed to answer questions about life since graduation in "Four Years In and Four Years Out."

Their stories, like many of ours, exhibit a gutsy, driven approach to navigating life and pursuing your passion regardless of obstacles. Many of us can identify with those Purchase traits—creativity, perseverance, and in some cases, hustling to get by.

For those alumni who either remember Purchase as nothing but bricks, suffered through the early mud years, or navigated the more recent construction, you might not recognize the campus today. Try and guess where the photographer stood when she snapped the photo featured in "Looking Good." Lush landscaping, new seating areas, and attractive lighting have rendered the plaza far more inviting to humans.

Unrestricted funds are critical. Many of the important initiatives undertaken at Purchase would not be possible without alumni donations to the PURCHASE FUND, which provides those valuable unrestricted funds for student scholarships, faculty development efforts, and alumni networking opportunities.

Please consider making a gift this year to keep Purchase competitive and thriving. Donations of any size have an impact. Visit [purchase.edu/giving](http://purchase.edu/giving), then select "give online" and "Purchase Fund." Or, use your smartphone and QR code reader app to make a donation now.

Finally, stay in touch! Send professional and personal news for "Alumni in Action," as well as updated contact information to [alumni@purchase.edu](mailto:alumni@purchase.edu). Also, send us your thoughts and suggestions for how we can better serve the alumni.

I'm proud of us and honored to serve as your president.

Jeffrey S. Putman '96

President, Purchase College Alumni Association  
[jeffrey.putman@purchase.edu](mailto:jeffrey.putman@purchase.edu)



## ALUMNI | *in Action*



### 1975

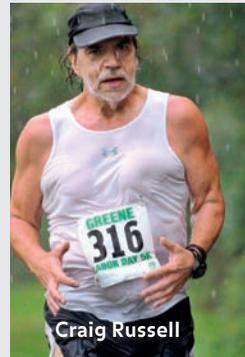
**Lewis Harrison** (philosophy) recently became part of the NPR network with his talk radio show *That Was Zen, This Is Tao* on WIOX 91.3 FM (streaming at [WIOXRadio.org](http://WIOXRadio.org)). He also published his 12th and 13th books, *Gamification for Business* and *Spiritual, Not Religious: Sacred Tools for Modern Times*. He lives in Stamford, NY.

### 1976

**Larry Isaacs, MD** (biology), was named a trauma surgeon at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, with a faculty appointment at Weill Cornell Medical College.

**Donald Margulies** (visual arts) has a new play, *The Country House*, opening on Broadway in October 2014. *The End of the Tour*, based on his screenplay, will have its premiere in 2015.

**Mike O'Neill** (biology) reports that his publication *BioQuick Online News* ([bioquicknews.com](http://bioquicknews.com)) has been awarded an APEX 2014 Award for Publishing Excellence in the category of electronic publications. *BioQuick* presently features more than 1,600 online articles on major life-science advances, and articles of interest are readily accessible by means of a powerful search engine. *BioQuick* has readers in more than 160 countries and includes a Japanese-language edition.



Craig Russell

**Craig Russell** (literature) is proud to rank among Purchase's first graduates. After owning a bookstore, he returned to SUNY for graduate work. As an adjunct instructor, he has taught writing at Broome Community College in his hometown since 1991 without benefit of benefits, tenure, promotion, pension, or an office—an accomplishment, he notes, that perhaps only Purchase people can truly appreciate. He says he leans always on what he learned at Purchase, especially from Myra Jehlen and Richard Stack.

**Michael Savage** (acting) will debut his film *Children of the World*, which he created for UNICEF, at the Eko International Film Festival in Lagos, Nigeria; the festival runs from Nov. 18 through 23, 2014. His new "magazine book," *Money War\$*, was released in August 2014.

### 1977

**Jeremy Gerard** (literature) was named executive editor of [deadline.com](http://deadline.com) last April. He's in charge of the East Coast office and will also serve as the chief theatre columnist.

**Jessica Hentoff** (sociology) took nine of her circus students to Israel at the height of the conflict with Gaza, where they continued their Peace through Pyramids partnership with the Jewish/Arab Galilee Circus. Hentoff says they "formed a piece of peace in the Middle East." See [circusday.org/peace-through-pyramids/](http://circusday.org/peace-through-pyramids/). A book on the partnership, *Watch Out for Flying Kids*, will be published in March 2015. (Photo: The combined troupes performing in Haifa.)



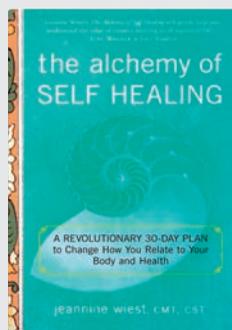
Jessica Hentoff

## 1978

**Peter Kurz** (political science) volunteers as the president of the Israel Association of Baseball, where he relies on his experience as catcher with the Purchase Burnouts softball team. The Israeli national team recently won the European Championships C Pool in Slovenia with Kurz as the team manager. He markets, sells, and exports Israeli bath and kitchen products to the U.S., and is available for consultation work (peter2@smile.net.il).



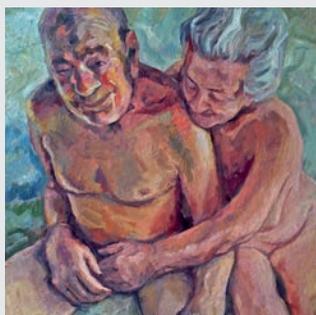
**Jeannine Khoutieff Wiest** (acting) releases her book *The Alchemy of Self-Healing*, published by New Page Books, in October 2014, with endorsements from such varied experts as Lily Tomlin, Dr. Eldon Taylor, and **Alan Questel** ('77, drama). The book details a 30-day process that helps people repurpose old stories that are trapped in their bodies as energy that is not serving them. The layered exercises, Wiest says, allow new resources to inform the body on a cellular level.



## 1979

**Jan Leder** (liberal arts) published her senior thesis, *Women in Jazz, 1913–1968*, in 1985 with Greenwood Press of Westport, CT. She leads her own ensembles, and has performed with the New York Jazz Flutet, Art Lillard's Heavenly Band, and pianist/mentor Connie Crothers at venues including Rockaway Beach, Somethin' Jazz/Greenwich Village, I-Beam/Brooklyn, Salem Roadhouse Café, and Trumpets/New Jersey. Leder is one of 37 women featured in Chris Becker's *Freedom of Expression: Interviews with Women in Jazz*, scheduled for publication in 2014.

**Abbie Rabinowitz** (visual arts) returned from the San Francisco Bay area and is working toward her MFA at Western Connecticut State University. In California she lived on a houseboat in Sausalito, in a commune in San Francisco, and in an arts community in Santa Cruz. Her artwork was selected for the di Rosa collection in Napa Valley. She



paints plein-air landscapes and is currently painting an intimate portrait series of her parents. Her thesis show is scheduled for Blue Mountain Gallery in Chelsea in June 2015.

## 1981

**Janis Colella** (visual arts) opened her own wood shop in Armonk, NY, in 1981 and has been in business for herself ever since. She met her husband, Ray Culin, along the way. They married and merged their businesses in 1987. Today they operate their design and millwork company, Culin & Colella, Inc., in Mamaroneck, NY. They produce residential kitchens, home libraries, media cabinetry, and furniture pieces. They also design and make eco-friendly bamboo furniture, available at Bamboogems.com.



## 1982

**Marcy Elkin** (design tech) recently joined the personal-shopping team at Lord & Taylor in NYC. The team helps individual clients in need of wardrobe updates, as well as stylists and designers for stage and screen. She says she welcomes the opportunity to assist Purchase alumni in her brand-new Fifth Avenue location. Her most recent accomplishment was "assisting" her daughter Jillian in graduating from the Thacher School and preparing to enter Vassar College in the fall.

## 1983

**Ivan Menchell** (literature) wrote this year's Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore comedy, *Blended*, and is writing the book for a new musical, *Death Note*, opening in Tokyo in April 2015.



**Edie Nadelhaft** (visual arts) had two paintings in *Face to Face—Wall to Wall* at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, MT. The exhibition, which opened in March, served as the centerpiece of the museum's 50th

anniversary, celebrating its success in fulfilling its mission to become a leading contemporary art museum in the western U.S.

## 1984

**Brian Drilling** (acting) is creative director of Edgemar Center for the Arts in Santa Monica, CA, and is teaching acting and voice at the T. Schreiber Studio in New York City. He produced the upcoming independent feature *The Bandit Hound* this past summer, and is currently directing a workshop production of Lanford Wilson's *Fifth of July* at the T. Schreiber Studio.

**Jan Friedberger Kravets** (music) is in her third year participating in and assisting at the Festival e Accademia Dino Ciani, which is held in Cortina D'Ampezzo in the Italian Dolomites. The best, and perhaps most humbling, part of being a pianist, she says, is the never-ending process of discovery with the masterworks.



## 1985

**Jeffrey Henriques** (psychology), senior lecturer in the department of psychology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, was selected as one of three faculty members to receive the 2014 Alliant Energy Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award. This annual award recognizes extraordinary teachers across the institutions in the University of Wisconsin system, and Henriques was noted for his engaging style, enthusiasm for the material, and ability to inspire his students to learn.



**Juan March, MD** (chemistry), is a professor in the department of emergency medicine at East Carolina University and chief of the division of emergency medical services (EMS). He is also president of the North Carolina chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians. EMS professionals provide care for critically ill and injured patients in ambulances, helicopters, and airplanes. EMS is one of the newest medical subspecialties (under the specialty of emergency medicine) to be recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

**Andrew W. Roskill** (literature) was both honored and excited to do a TEDx talk on the role of libraries in the digital age. He is a technology entrepreneur, and his company, BibliLabs, is focused on helping libraries deliver an easy, elegant, and engaging digital user experience for patrons. Roskill is passionate about libraries and wants to help enable them to remain highly relevant and a valuable resource for all.

**Karen Sillas** (acting) has reunited with Purchase graduate filmmaker Hal Hartley for their sixth film together, *Ned Rifle*, which has been accepted into the Toronto International Film Festival for this September. This past summer, Sillas was busy shooting *Stuff*, an indie film based in New York.

## 1986

**Deanna Murphy** (biology) completed her associate's degree in accounting at Austin Community College in Texas in 2013.

## 1988

**Regina Curro-Gelfer** (visual arts) will be having an exhibition of her paintings at the Mamaroneck

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Public Library during the month of November 2014. Recent works will be on display and an opening reception is planned. For updated information, please visit her website at [gelfergraphics.com](http://gelfergraphics.com).

## 1990

### Rachel Hauben-Combs (acting)

earned her MA in writing and publishing from DePaul University in June 2014. She has worked as a development manager with Storycatchers Theatre since 2008; the White House recognized Storycatchers with a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in November 2013. Hauben-Combs recently began working as a dramaturg with Rivendell Theatre in Chicago to develop a new script called *Women at War*.



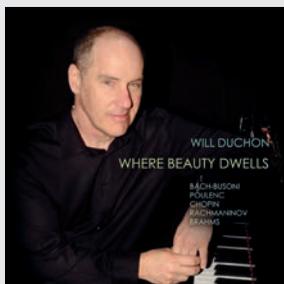
**Jacqueline Zubeck** (literature) was recently granted tenure at the College of Mount Saint Vincent and is now an associate professor of English.

## 1991

**Michi Hatashita Wong, PhD** (psychology), is a crew member on the Polynesian voyaging canoe *Höküle`a* for Mälama Honua, the World Wide Voyage. This crew's leg of the journey began on Aug. 25, 2014, in Apia, Samoa, where 8,000 international delegates were gathered to raise ocean awareness at the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The crew will sail to Tokelau and then Kanton, Kiribati—some of the nations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

## 1992

**Will Duchon** (MFA, music) is a broadcaster for WMNR Fine Arts Radio ([wmnr.org](http://wmnr.org)), and director of music for the Monroe Congregational Church in Monroe, CT. Duchon continues to perform and recently released his second CD, *Where Beauty Dwells*, featuring music by Bach-Busoni, Poulenc, Chopin, Rachmaninov, and Brahms. He is also the founder and director of the Opus 30 Mission ([opusthirty.blogspot.com](http://opusthirty.blogspot.com)), which advocates on behalf of wrongfully convicted individuals.



**Jeffrey Schwarz** (film) completed a successful festival and theatrical run with his latest documentary feature, *I Am Divine*, which recently made its DVD/VOD debut. It is available for purchase or streaming via Wolfe Video and at [divinemovie.com](http://divinemovie.com). He is cur-

rently in postproduction on *Tab Hunter Confidential*, about the 1950s screen heart-throb.

**Ian Thal** (philosophy) had two of his plays produced at theatre festivals this summer. His one-act *Arlecchino Am Ravenous* was presented by the Laugh/Riot Performing Arts Company, a resident company at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, his short play *Two Cats Explain the Monstrous Moth Group* had its world premiere at the Changing Scene Theatre Northwest's Festival of New Works in Tacoma, WA. Thai also writes theatre criticism for the *Arts Fuse*, a Boston-based online arts magazine.



## 1993

**C. Luke Brussel** (visual arts) joined General Electric in April 2014 to lead the global anticorruption program for GE Capital, a company with 40,000 employees and \$100 billion in annual revenue. He also became a member of the Madison Group, an anticorruption roundtable of leading financial services firms. Previously he was chief compliance officer at Cengage Learning, an educational company based in Stamford, CT. Brussel remains vitally interested in art as an important part of his life.

**Kristina Valcarce** (music) was hired this season as the soprano section leader and soloist with the San Gabriel Valley Choral Company. She is getting ready to sing her second concert with the group.

## 1994

**Arielle Greenberg** (drama studies) lectured last spring at a symposium on feminist poetics at the University of Southern California. She's the staff poet for the film journal *Bright Wall Dark Room* and co-editor of a new edition of her anthology *Gurlisque*, which covers third-wave feminist poetry and visual art. Greenberg teaches in the MFA program in creative writing at Oregon State University—Cascades and the Maine State Prison; she reports that she lives joyfully in a nontraditional family structure in Maine.

## 1995

**Tami Stronach** (dance) is the co-founder of Shoehorn Theater, currently in residence at the New Victory Theater as part of the 2013–14 LabWorks program to create *Light: A Dark Comedy*. This funny, imaginative, and just-a-little-bit scary story is for audiences ages 9 to 90. Stronach is also the artistic director of Tami Stronach Dance and an assistant professor of dance at Marymount Manhattan College.



## 1996

**Stephanie Silber Zimet** (literature) reports that Scott Gould of RLR Associates is now representing her novel, *Other People's Houses*. Home Team Productions' latest film, *Everything Is Forever*, hit the ground running in April 2014. Its WorldFest-Houston premiere earned two awards; the international premiere in Croatia took a Special Jury Award; and the Jacob Burns Film Center hosted the Westchester premiere in August 2014 as part of the New Music Documentaries Series. More fests to come!



## 1998

**Lisa Flowers** (liberal studies) is director of advancement for a Catholic all-girls high school in Manhattan.

### Seth Hebert-Faergolzia (music)

since what he calls his legendary time at Purchase, has been busy touring throughout Europe and the U.S. for the past 10 years, covering more than 20 countries. He released his newest album, *Doubling Won't Do*, in April 2014; the work explores the experiences he has had as an indie musician booking, promoting, and releasing his own music as his sole means of survival. He resides in Rochester, NY. See [23psaegz.com](http://23psaegz.com) and [dufus.bandcamp.com](http://dufus.bandcamp.com).



### Lucy Kalantari (music)

released a collection of ukulele ditties with a 1920s flair about the wonders of love, being a mom, and babies. **Rina Miele '03** (visual arts) captured the joy and retro feel with her wonderfully detailed album cover design. Visit [LucyKalantari.com](http://LucyKalantari.com) for more info.



## 1999

**Donny Dykowsky** (music) is a husband, father, and maker of music. After graduation, he paid his dues playing live, but now he writes scores for pictures. Dykowsky is the founder and creative director of the Ski Team, a music production company in Jersey City that produces music for marquee brands, film/TV, and artists. Deadlines and parameters are often tight, he reports, making every day an excit-

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 and major, and please keep content under 50 words.

ing adventure  
 creating music  
 and sound  
 design to fulfill  
 his clients' vision  
 for their products  
 and art. See  
 theskiteam.net.



Donny Dykowsky

## 2000

**Megan Bridge** (dance) has been in Philadelphia for almost 15 years, working professionally as a dancer, choreographer, curator, and dance writer. Along with her partner and collaborator, Peter Price, she co-directs <fidget>, an experimental performance company, and runs the fidget space, a warehouse venue in Philadelphia, which regularly hosts performances, classes, and workshops. This season she is choreographing *Dust*, an experimental opera by the late composer Robert Ashley. The work will premiere in Philadelphia at FringeArts in April 2015.



Megan Bridge



Dylan Carusona

**Dylan Carusona** (acting) has performed in NYC stage productions of *Quiet Wind* by Kym Snyder (New York New Works Theatre Festival); AMERINDA's *Powwow Highway*, adapted from David Seals' novel by W. S. Yellow Robe Jr.; and the Eagle Project's *Broken Heartland* by Vicki

Mooney. Carusona was also part of Mary Katherine Nagle's *Silver of a Full Moon* reading at the Capitol in Washington, DC, in honor of the reauthorization of the Violence against Women Act, with new provisions to help protect Native American women on reservations.



Vanessa López

**Vanessa López** (art history) will be teaching in the master of arts in teaching department at the Maryland Institute College of Art, after more than ten years of teaching art in the Baltimore city school system. She most recently served as a member of the visual arts writing team for the National

Coalition of Core Arts Standards and as the 2010 national convention program coordinator for the National Art Education Association. López lives with her daughter and her plants in Baltimore.

## 2001

**Sherri Chambers Fisher** (visual arts) was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Teaching Award and will be traveling to Finland with her family in the spring

of 2015 to conduct arts-based research on classroom culture.

**Gregory Saracino** (environmental science) and his wife, Sarah, proudly welcomed twins, a boy and a girl, on April 18, 2014: Mason and Chloe Saracino.

## 2002

**James Herstatt** (music) performed a program of Brahms and Tchaikovsky in Japan at the Iwaki Performing Arts Center. He is currently a violist in the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra of Norway.

**Michael Jake** (music) will be opening for Tito Puente Jr. with Tony Pastrana's New York Latin Jazz group (Tony is the brother of legendary Latin musician Joey Pastrana) at the Bass Clef Latin Jazz Festival in Miami, FL, on Nov. 14 and 15, 2014. Purchase alum **John Goldberg '03** (visual arts) will be joining Jake on the upright bass.

## 2003

**Michael O'Shea** (dramatic writing) is a staff writer for the upcoming season of NBC's *Chicago Fire*. Previously, he held positions in feature film development, business affairs, and TV finance. His door is always open to students and alumni actively pursuing careers in writing for film or television.



## 2004

**Mike Carlsen** (acting) has a role in the feature film *A Walk among the Tombstones* with Liam Neeson, which premiered in September.



Mike Carlsen

**Delia Kelly** (drama studies) is a television producer and video editor. Currently she writes and edits the hit programs *Farmhouse Rules*, on the Food Network, and *Pati's Mexican Table*, on PBS. She also recently was an editor on *The Chew* for ABC, and has worked on various other programs, including *The Howard Stern Show* on



Delia Kelly

demand, NBC's *New York Live*, and *Open House*, for which she received an Emmy Award nomination this year.

**David I. L. Poole** (drama studies) was recently selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellow in Grambling State University Institute of Greek Drama's program *Exploring the Margins: Enhancing the Teaching of Greek Drama at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Poole was voted Best Local Theater Director in Savannah, GA, for his production of Peter Shaffer's *Equus* (which was also voted Best Local Theater Production) by the readers of *Connect Savannah*.

**Karen Zraick** (language & culture) is a multimedia journalist and senior staff editor at the *New York Times*. Her writing and videos have been published by the *Times*, the *New York Daily News*, the *Associated Press*, *Clarín* in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the *Daily Star* in Beirut, Lebanon, among other outlets. She holds a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and lives in Brooklyn.

## 2005

**Victor Giannini** (creative writing) will release his latest novel, *Counselor*, with Silverthought Press in 2014. Roger Rosenblatt says: "In Victor Giannini's thrilling new novel, we are breathless in his wake. But *Counselor* is more than a wild verbal ride. Under the fury of the pace lies a sustained criticism of modern America and a moral conclusion that could be reached only by an observant, serious mind. This is an important piece of work."

**Andrea Thomas** (sociology) has worked for UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, a U.S. presidential campaign, and FEMA since graduating from Purchase. In 2011, Thomas earned a master's degree in public administration and public policy from Queens College; her focus was on urban development. She is currently in the Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic, where she serves as a sustainable organization and business development volunteer.



Andrea Thomas

**Eugene Courtise Wing III** (acting) was featured in *USA Today's* "For the Win!" column on Aug. 13, 2014. A CrossFit instructor, he trained his friend Kirk MacLeod, a former security adviser to the United Nations, using CrossFit to prepare for the Big Swim, a fundraiser for Brigadoon Village, while MacLeod was battling stage-4 metastatic colon cancer.

## 2006

**Peter Coco** (MM, music) and his brother opened the Music Academy of Garden City, a teaching facility on Long Island that specializes in music education. They expanded in 2009 and now have a nine-room facility and 18 faculty members, all of whom are professional musicians and educators. In 2011 Coco was hired by Hofstra University and is

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now an associate professor of music. He recently received his doctor of musical arts degree with a concentration in classical music from Stony Brook University.



Andrew Jupin

**Andrew Jupin** (cinema studies) is entering his third year as a film programmer at the Jacob Burns Film Center, where he's worked since 2006. Jupin created *We Hate Movies*, a popular film-centric comedy podcast he's hosted since 2010. He also produces films with Private Cabin, a collective he co-

founded in 2009. The collective's first feature, *We Are Strangers*, was screened in April 2014 as part of NewFilmmakers New York; production on the group's second feature began in June 2014.

**Craig MacArthur** (Dolezel) (drama studies) is in a production of *Misterman* by Enda Walsh. The show is premiering in Colorado at the Pagosa Springs Pirate Achievement Center (running from Oct. 9 through Nov. 2) before relocating to the Boulder Dairy Center (Dec. 12–28). In this production, Olympia Dukakis voices the role of Thomas' mother, Mammy. MacArthur received his MFA in acting at Rutgers under Israel Hicks (former chair of acting at Purchase).



Craig MacArthur

## 2007

**Jared Albert** (journalism) is now a senior publicist at Animal Planet. He handles public relations for the channel's annual *Puppy Bowl* special and recently visited the White House to film a "puppy boot-camp" for the tenth anniversary of the Puppy Bowl with first dogs Bo and Sunny Obama. Michelle Obama was in attendance as well.



Jared Albert

**Maria Gervits** (biology) completed her residency in family medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in June 2014. She is now doing a fellowship in maternity care at the same institution, delivering babies in the Bronx.

**Elizabeth Saperstein** (art history) continues to curate art exhibitions. Her most recent is a group show, *Natural Enemies*, which opened in September and runs through Oct. 25, 2014, at the Pelham Art Center in Pelham, NY. The exhibit brings together the work of eight artists (including Purchase alums **Erik Parker '98**, visual arts, and **Loren Eiferman '79**, visual arts) that explores the topic of human nature.

**Justin Thomas** (liberal studies: legal studies) became the associate producer on the documentary short *The Grey Movie*, sponsored by the Cinereach Foundation, advised by Albert Maysles, and screened by Rooftop Films in 2008 and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2010. He received his master's from the School of Visual Arts' social documentary filmmaking department in 2013, for which he traveled to Haiti to make a film about the country's recovery from the devastating 2010 earthquake and the implementation of Haiti's first modern emergency medical system. His first feature-length documentary, *Truth through a Lens*, is about a community activist from Brooklyn who takes on police brutality with his video camera, and documents police misconduct to broadcast to the larger world. The film won the Best Documentary Award at the 2014 Workers Unite! Film Festival.

## 2008

**Danny Gray** (music) has gained international attention for his film, television, and concert music. He has contributed music to more than 200 episodes of major network television, including *Dateline NBC*, *20/20*, and *NY Med*. In 2013 he scored the short comedy film *Hell No*, which became a viral Internet sensation, garnering more than five million views in five days. Recently, the Australian Boys' Choir premiered Gray's choral composition *Under the Night Sky* in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

## 2009

**Rachel Cleary** (political science) has recently taken the position of development officer for annual giving at the New School in NYC. Previously, she earned a master's in international affairs at the New School, completing her studies with an internship at the Kosovo Women's Network in Pristina, Kosovo.

## 2010

**Alexander Atkins** (film) was accepted at the Georgetown Law Center; his studies will begin this fall. After directing an award-winning short film in 2011, Atkins worked in production management in Los Angeles, producing two feature films. In 2013, he became the creative director at Creative Content, a Westchester-based media and marketing start-up. At Georgetown, Atkins intends to add a whole new discipline to his rich experiences in film, focusing on criminal law, human rights, and public policy.



Alexander Atkins

**Glorianne Cody** (arts management) has become part of the production team at the advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather. Cody recently received a Cannes



Silver Lion Award for the first project she produced by herself, in October 2013. More recently, she worked on a major television campaign that created a record-breaking 64 unique TV spots in five weeks. She was also featured as the talent in several of the TV spots.

**Robin Levine** (media, society, and the arts) is first deputy press secretary to the New York City Council, where she oversees daily communications for Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the 51-member legislative body. Previously, Levine served as a spokesperson for former speaker and mayoral candidate Christine Quinn and in the congressional offices of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill and former U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner. Levine lives in Brooklyn; her Twitter handle is @RobinRLevine.

## 2011

**Jared Kaplan** (new media) is currently working as a digital producer for the Discovery Channel. For the tenth season of the Emmy Award-winning show *Deadliest Catch*, he was part of a team that created original Web content to supplement the television broadcast. He is also actively involved in this year's *Shark Week*, working with show producers to provide a Web presence for the popular TV event.

## 2014

**Marie Young** (arts management) interned for the Tony Awards this spring. She co-produced the new musical *Held Momentarily* at the New York International Fringe Festival in August 2014, a production that started as a workshop for her Purchase senior project. It was one of the few FringeNYC shows to be reviewed by the *New York Times*, and it received an honorable mention in Broadway producer Ken Davenport's *The Producer's Perspective* blog.

## Weddings

**Arissa Zervas '08** (art history) married Konstantine Paschalidis in a Greek Orthodox ceremony on June 28, 2014, in Cedar Grove, NJ. A European honeymoon is planned.

## In Memoriam

### Mike Stewart '03

Forty-one year old saxophonist Mike Stewart '03 (MM) collapsed while jogging near his home in Adelaide, Australia, on May 19, 2014, and could not be revived. He led the acclaimed Mike Stewart Big Band and performed frequently with his trio Songbook, and was a member of the Adelaide Sax Pack.

With guidance and encouragement from his close friend and mentor Jon Faddis, professor of music, Stewart made his solo recording debut in New York. *Serenity*, the resulting album, produced by Faddis, and featuring professor Todd Coolman on bass, includes some of Stewart's compositions and arrangements of standards from Joe Henderson to Thelonius Monk.

# Neuberger Museum of Art

The **Neuberger Museum of Art** is the premier museum in the Westchester/Fairfield County region for modern, contemporary, and African art, including a special focus on Latin American art and innovative media and technologies. The museum was conceived with the dual purpose of serving as an important cultural resource for its regional communities and national and international public, and as an integral part of Purchase College. Our mission is to educate our diverse audiences in and through the visual arts, and invite living artists to share their compelling views of our times. Our goal is to engage and inspire by actively fostering the appreciation of our collection and changing exhibitions. During the 2014–2015 season, visit these groundbreaking exhibitions, covering visual languages from Russia to Africa, and from textiles to photography and digital animation:

- *This Leads to Fire: From Nonconformism to Global Capitalism, Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation Collection*, Sept. 14, 2014, to Jan. 11, 2015
- *Key Frames: Contemporary Artists' Animation*, Aug. 24, 2014, to Jan. 11, 2015
- *Becoming Disfarmer*, Nov. 9, 2014, to March 22, 2015
- *Kuba Textiles: Geometry in Form, Space, and Time*, March 1 to June 28, 2015

Visit [neuberger.org](http://neuberger.org) and subscribe to our e-news, or connect on Facebook for updates and information.



Tatiana Antoshina, *Dolly*, 2004.  
Staged photograph, c-print, 41 1/4 x 29 1/2 inches.  
Courtesy of the Kolodzei Art Foundation.

# THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**Purchase College**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The **Performing Arts Center** at Purchase College continues its 37th season this fall and winter with two performances by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The Nov. 22 and Dec. 6 recitals are part of the first year of a three-year residency at Purchase College by the nation's premier repertory company for chamber music.

Also on the schedule are concerts by the sultry-voiced Suzanne Vega, Nov. 7, the Czech Philharmonic on a rare U.S. tour on Nov. 15, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra on Nov. 30.

A one-of-a-kind theatrical experience will take place on Nov. 22 when En Garde Arts presents *Basetrack Live*, a gripping performance piece drawing on the power of individual stories to examine the collective experience of those who have served in America's longest war.

December events include the Suzanne Farrell Ballet dancing works by George Balanchine on Dec. 7, double-bassist Edgar Meyer on Dec. 14, and Holiday Concerts by singer/songwriter Rob Mathes on Dec. 19 and 20 and Musica Sacra performing Handel's *Messiah*, under the baton of Kent Tritle, on Dec. 20.

Starting the new year of 2015 will be January concerts by organist Cameron Carpenter on Jan. 24 and the Knights with Bela Fleck on Jan. 31.

Each year the Performing Arts Center presents a full roster of world-class artists, ranging from international orchestras, renowned dance companies, unique professional theatre, the finest chamber ensembles, contemporary music, comedians, pop artists, family programs, film, and more.

For tickets call the Performing Arts Center's box office at **914.251.6200** or visit [ArtsCenter.org](http://ArtsCenter.org).



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## **Purchase College Alumni Association Board of Directors 2014**

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