

PURCHASE

PURCHASE COLLEGE MAGAZINE | THINK WIDE OPEN

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

THE SENIOR PROJECT



Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

PLUS:

AMAZING ALUMNI COUPLES...

Stories from 50 Couples Who Met at Purchase

PURCHASE-MADE MUSIC

Legendary. Innovative. Unstoppable.

ALUMNI IN ACTION



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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
BY ROBERTO DEOLIVEIRA '14

On the Cover: *School of Liberal Arts and
Sciences annual senior project procession.*

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[THIS MOMENT] IN TIME

By Thomas J. Schwarz



One of my favorite Purchase traditions happens each May when seniors in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences parade across the mall to the library, senior projects in hand. With ribbons flying (we stopped releasing balloons because of the environmental hazard) and the excitement that stems from finally turning in a project that took a year or more to complete, the students take this moment to revel together in their sense of accomplishment.

The inherent democracy in the requirement that all graduates complete a senior project renders it a core Purchase strength and a unique attribute that sets us apart in the SUNY system and beyond. Completing the senior project is a major academic and personal achievement that holds the power to transform—not only careers, but also lives. On page 12, meet several alumni who look back on their senior project

experience and its lasting influence.

Another transformative experience the college years provide is the forming of lasting relationships—professional and personal. Whether dating started on campus or is the result of reconnecting years later, dozens of happy couples have blossomed from roots established at Purchase. Read fascinating stories about love connections made here on campus in “Amazing Alumni Couples” on page 6.

Now that spring has finally arrived, a walk around campus reminds me how integral music is to Purchase. Students gather to play on the mall, the sounds of voices and instruments drift from open windows, and the event schedule is packed with performances. Spring is also a time of transition. In “Purchase-Made Music,” read how students, faculty, and alumni from the Conservatory of Music shift from campus life to full-time musician mode, navigating the music business. Many up-and-coming artists began their professional careers while they were Conservatory students.

Finally, I had the pleasure to present four more recipients with the Rockefeller Awards for Creativity at a ceremony held at the New-York Historical Society last March (see page 32). The award allows Purchase to honor the achievements and contributions of artists, arts patrons, and those committed to philanthropy and the environment. The awardees’ bodies of work collectively represent just what Purchase stands for—merging passion with creativity and channeling both into whatever path we choose.

The stories in this issue serve a nice reminder that so much of what happens here at Purchase provides the groundwork—the roots—from which careers and lives develop, grow, and flourish. Consider giving to Purchase and help us propagate the next generation of seedlings.

Yours very truly,

Thomas J. Schwarz
President

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



Matt Bollinger, Art+Design, had a solo exhibition, *Reading Rooms*, on view from Nov. 28, 2014, through Jan. 25, 2015, at Zürcher Studio in New York City. His work was also included in a group exhibition, *Image Makers*, at Novella Gallery from Dec. 10, 2014, through Jan. 10, 2015. At left: *Steel Rails*, 2013, Flashe, acrylic, and collage on toile, 90 x 72 cm.

Deborah Buck, Music, was the guest artist at the Manchester Music Festival in Manchester, VT, on Nov. 29, 2014, and was the guest soloist at the fall concert on Nov. 23 with the Summit Symphony Orchestra, led by guest conductor Stephen Somary at the Summit High School in New Jersey. Buck, who is the first violin for the Lark Quartet, and guest percussionist Yousif Sheronick gave three other performances in November: at the David Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, the Cranbrook Music Guild in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and the Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center in Florida.



Lenora Champagne, Theatre Arts, performed in the U.S. premiere of Fernando Rubio's *Everything by My Side* in the Crossing the Line festival, produced by PS122 and the French Institute/Alliance Française, in September 2014. Champagne also performed an excerpt from her new work, *Traps*, at the Chocolate Factory in Long Island City in the performance development series THROW, curated by Sarah Maxfield, on Oct. 21 and Nov. 17, and performed in a reading, directed by Fiona Templeton, of Khadijah Queen's play *Non-Sequitur*, which won the Leslie Scalapino Award for Innovative Women Performance Writers, at the New Ohio Theatre in Manhattan.

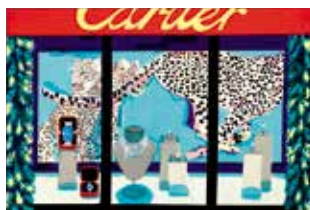


Larry Clark, Dance, represented the Purchase Conservatory of Dance at the fall 2014 conference of the Council of Dance Administrators in Snowbird, UT, in September; Clark also represented the Purchase Conservatory of Dance at the Dancing through College and Beyond recruitment event held at Marymount College in New York City on Oct. 19.

Todd Coolman, Music, was invited to perform at the festivities for Jazz at Lincoln Center's opening-night party for the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, which presented National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master David Baker with the Satchmo Award on Sept. 18, 2014. On Sept. 16, Coolman and Stanley Crouch (president of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation) were guests on the hour-long NBC program *Live in Studio: News 4 New York at 7 P.M.*, simulcast on Cozi TV and nbcnewyork.com.

Donna Dennis, Art+Design, had work exhibited at the PULSE Miami Beach Contemporary Art Fair in the Mixed Greens booth in December 2014.

Stella Ebner, Art+Design, had a solo exhibition called *Stella Ebner: Let's Go! G-O! Go!* on view at the Print Center in Philadelphia from Sept. 12 through Nov. 22, 2014. It included a new, large-scale series of prints that "focus attention upon the perceived usualness of the everyday." Her self-published screen-



Stella Ebner, *Cartier Window*, 2014. Screenprint, 25 x 36 inches. Edition of five. Printed and published by the artist, New York, NY.

print, *Cartier Window*, 2014, won the *Art in Print* Prix de Print, a bimonthly competition for *Art in Print* subscribers in which a single blind entry is selected by an outside juror (who turned out to be Faye Hirsch) to be the subject of a brief essay. Ebner was also a visiting artist, lecturer, and critic in the MFA program at the Rhode Island School of Design in the fall of 2014.

Joseph Ferry, Music, has completed work on his new book, *Jamaica: History, Culture, and Music*. Two singles from his soon-to-be-released album *Revival*, "Burning Spear" and "Star," are charting nationally and feature Purchase College alums Adrienne Mack-Davis '10 and Noelle Tannen. On Oct. 31, 2014, a new single, "Highlife," which features Purchase alum J-Zone '99, was released. Additionally, Ferry played bass on Mack-Davis' new album. The album was recorded at Acme Studios, which is owned by Professor Peter Denenberg (Music) and engineered by Purchase alums Dan Kottmann '15 and Dan Stringer '09.

Kate Gilmore, Art+Design, had four solo exhibitions last fall, beginning with *Top Drawer* at the Zuccaire Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts/University Gallery at Stony Brook University in New York, from Sept. 6 through Oct. 18. In conjunction with the exhibition, Gilmore gave an artist talk on Sept. 15 and a performance on Sept. 27. Gilmore's contribution to the Socrates Sculpture Park Billboard Project, *Wall Bearer*, a sculptural and performance-based work, was on view from Sept. 7, 2014, through March 22, 2015, in Long Island City, NY. And at the Kansas City Art Institute H&R Block ARTspace, *Kate Gilmore* opened on Oct. 25 and ran through Dec. 17.



Wall Bearer at Socrates Sculpture Park

Karen Guancione, Art+Design, gave an artist talk and workshop, "Hanging Sculptural Art with Artist Karen Guancione," at the Noyes Museum of Art in Oceanville, NJ, on June 14, 2014. The workshop coincided with her exhibition and site-specific installation *Sutra*, which ran from Sept. 2013 through Aug. 2014.

Maria Guralnik, Arts Management, was among a select group of arts presenters, producers, academics, and media personnel invited to attend a launch event on Oct. 1, 2014, announcing a \$40-million Wallace Foundation initiative designed to generate sustainable ideas for retaining and building audiences. The event, streamed live from WNYC's Greene Space in Manhattan, featured a discussion with new National Endowment for the Arts chair Jane Chu and other national arts

leaders, moderated by Kurt Andersen, host of the Peabody Award-winning public radio program *Studio 360*.

Cassandra Hooper, Art+Design, has work included in *Ley Lines*, edited by H. L. Hix, an anthology that looks at various forms of exchange between writers and artists and offers unique access to contemporary art, poetry, and the creative process (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015). Hooper's work was included in *Somewheres & Nowheres*, an exhibition curated by Nicola López at the International Print Center New York from Oct. 25 through Dec. 13, 2014, and in *Ley Lines: Crossing Media with Cultural Conversation*, an exhibition that opened in Feb. 2015 at the University of Wyoming Art Museum.





Sharon Horvath, *Cosmicomic*, 2014

Sharon Horvath, Art+Design, had two concurrent solo exhibitions, *Sharon Horvath: Cosmicomics—New Paintings* and *Sharon Horvath: Varanasi Notebooks*, at Lori Bookstein Fine Art, from Oct. 9 through Nov. 8, 2014, in New York City.



Richie Morales, Music, was profiled in the 80th Anniversary Collector's Edition of *Downbeat*, "The 80 Coolest Things in Jazz Today"; he came in at number 55 with his highly regarded Jam Sessions at the Turning Point, Piermont, NY.

Lenka Pichlíková, Theatre Arts, presented her performance-art piece *Seven Deadly Sins* and *a Virtue* in August 2014 at the Theatrum Kuks performing arts



Lenka Pichlíková

festival in Kuks in the Czech Republic. Kuks is the site of a baroque-era spa and hospital, featuring a series of eighteenth-century baroque statues, which inspired the piece. The performance, which involved extensive audience interaction, was presented in the garden near the statues. Director Laurie Gage joined Pichlíková in the performance. Pichlíková is also part of the cast for a commercial for a moving company filmed by Kernel Time Warner Cable Media Company in New York last fall.

Ted Piltzecker, Music, performed last August as a guest artist at the Festival Internacional de Música De Belo Horizonte, and last September performed samba and jazz, as well as premiering a new piece for wind ensemble, at the sixth Encontro Internacional De Percussão in Tatuí, Brazil. He performed and taught in the first Percussive Arts Society Australia Festival at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide, Australia, in 2014. Piltzecker presented a workshop at the Instituto de Artes da UNESP in São Paulo on Sept. 2, and was in residency at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte in Natal, Brazil, in August; he also worked with student percussionists in both venues. Also in August, Piltzecker and the Purchase Conservatory of Music hosted young percussion students from Shanghai, China.

Kristine Potter, Art+Design, had a solo exhibition, *Manifest*, at Daniel Cooney Fine Art in New York, NY, from Sept. 12 through Nov. 1, 2014.

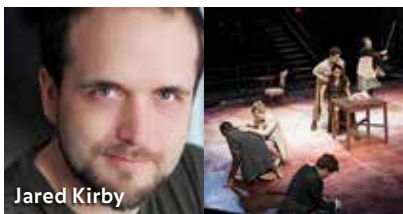
Pamela Prather, Theatre, served as vocal and dialect coach for *Travesties* at the Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, NY, and *Dracula* at the Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre in Houston. Both plays were directed by the Alley Theatre's artistic director, Gregory Boyd. Pamela also coached Nadia Manzoor as she found the voices for 21 characters in her critically acclaimed solo performance piece *Burq Off!*

Christopher Robbins, Art+Design, co-founded Ghana Think Tank, which received a \$10,000 award from the Kindle Project to spearhead a cross-cultural art and urban regeneration project in Detroit. His projects *WPA 2010* and *Ghana Think Tank* were featured in the second edition of *What We Want Is Free: Critical Exchanges in Recent Art*, edited by Ted Purves and Shane Aslan Selzer (SUNY Press, 2014). Additionally, he presented and exhibited at the 2014 Creative Time Summit with Ghana Think Tank co-founder John Ewing in November 2014 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Jordon Schildcrout, Theatre Arts, reviewed *Elwood + Harvey: When a Grown Man Has an Invisible Friend*, in the *Gay and Lesbian Review/Worldwide* (March/April 2013). He published his book *Murder Most Queer: The Homicidal Homosexual in the American Theater* with the University of Michigan Press. The book examines the shifting meanings of murderous lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender characters in the American theatre from the 1920s to today, showing how these controversial representations wrestle with and ultimately subvert the archetype of the "villainous homosexual." Schildcrout gave a reading from this new publication on Dec. 3, 2014, at a book launch party held at the Bureau of General Services—Queer Division at the LGBT Community Center in New York City. He also was an invited speaker at Cornell University for a symposium on Broadway revivals on Nov. 6. His talk, focusing on his current research

Matthew Jensen, Art+Design, had a solo exhibition, *Alongside Tall Grasses*, at the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA, last fall. In conjunction with the exhibition, Jensen gave an artist talk on Nov. 8. Jensen's work was also included in the group exhibition *Crossing Brooklyn: Art from Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, and Beyond*, at the Brooklyn Museum from Oct. 3, 2014 through Jan. 4, 2015. And on Oct. 25, Jensen led an artist walk/talk, "Flatbush Old/Flatbush New," in conjunction with the exhibition.

Laura Kaminsky, Arts Management and Music, gave a lecture: "Making As One: A Chamber Opera for Two Voices Portraying One Transgender Protagonist," at the University of Pittsburgh's Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences in the department of music's lecture series on Oct. 17, 2014. At the University of North Carolina, Asheville, Kaminsky participated with a panel of renowned keynote speakers in "Ecomusics and Ecomusicologies 2014: Dialogues" in October, a multiday event including panel discussions, concerts, soundwalks, workshops, and outings. Her new opera, *As One*, premiered at BAM in early September 2014, to critical acclaim; it was presented by American Opera Projects as part of its Professional Development Program. She also had a talk with Brian Kellow of *Opera News* regarding *As One*.



Jared Kirby

Jared Kirby, Theatre Arts, staged the fights for the Senior Acting Conservatory's production of *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, directed by David Bassuk, as well as stunts for a World War I independent film, *The March of Ibchen Hallas*.

Currently, Kirby is staging the fight scenes for the New York City premiere of *Same River Twice*, and in December he taught at the Paddy Crean Stage Combat Conference at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada.

Julian Kreimer, Art+Design, Art History, was a participant with artist Andrea Belag in the "In Conversation" New York Studio School lecture series on Oct. 29, 2014. His work was included in several group shows in New York: *The City as Subject*, at Westbeth Gallery from Sept. 20 through Oct. 5, curated by Peter Xico Greenwald; Artist House Party Presents: *Viewing Room: "Diagonal Triangle"* from Oct. 19 through Nov. 12; *Improvised Showboat* at the Kathy Bradford Studio on Sept. 26 in Brooklyn, NY; and *Higher Learning* at Lehman College. Last summer he co-curated *In the Office of the Drunken Monkey* at the TSA Gallery in Brooklyn from Aug. 8 through Sept. 7. Kreimer also had a solo show and residency this winter at the Lux Art Institute in San Diego, CA.

Alois Kronschaeger, Art+Design, had a site-specific installation, *Grid Structure #1*, featured in the group exhibition *Tales of Two Cities: New York and Beijing* at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT; it ran from May through August 2014.

Warren Lehrer, Art+Design, received his seventh award for *A Life in Books: The Rise and Fall of Bleu Mobley* when it was named the winner of the 2014 USA Best Book Awards in the "Best New Fiction" category.

into long-running Broadway plays, was titled "Come Back to the Fulton Theatre, Anne Nichols, Anne Nichols: The Life, Death, and After-Life of *Abie's Irish Rose*."

Jeffrey Taylor, Arts Management, wrote a book, *In Search of the Budapest Secession: The Artist Proletariat and Modernism's Rise in the Hungarian Art Market, 1800–1914*, which was published in August 2014 by Helena History Press and distributed by Central European University Press. Taylor also co-curated the late-fall 2014 exhibition *A Mid-Century Mind*, an exhibit of sculptural works in paper by the midcentury designer Irving Harper, at the Rye Arts Center. He shared curatorial duties with the center's gallery chair, Katherine Dufault.

Hakan Topal, New Media, Art+Design, contributed to the book *Speculation, Now: Essays and Artworks on Action and Discourse in a World of Contingencies and Change*, edited by Vyjayanthi Rao, with Prem Krishnamurthy and Carin Kuoni. Topal also contributed two essays to the New School for Social Research's online journal *Public Seminar*: "Islamists and the Perpetuity of Catastrophe" and "The Overlooked Besieged Alternative in the Middle East: The Rojava Cantons." In September 2014, Topal was a panel participant in "Conversation: Starting from Zero: Art, Harmony, and Innovation" at the Neuberger Museum, along with Elizabeth Berkowitz, adjunct professor of art history, Reinhard Bek, and moderator Avis Larson, assistant curator of the Neuberger Museum. Topal also participated that month in the panel discussion/film screening "Utopias and Realities" at Anthology Film Archives along with Kathleen MacQueen and Gerald Pryor from the U.S.A. and Jorge Zuzulich and Alejandro Schianchi from Argentina. The event was curated by Graciela Cassel.

Sarah Walker, Art+Design, recently had work in two group exhibitions in New York: at Senaspace, *Prime Matter*, a large group show organized by Zoe and Christopher Schade, which ran from Oct. 16 through Dec. 6, 2014, and Artist House Party Presents: *Viewing Room: "Diagonal Triangle"* from Oct. 19 through Nov. 12.



Sarah Walker, *Oort Cloud*, 2012

Joshua Willis, Art+Design, had a solo exhibition last fall, *In the Shadow of the Machine*, at the fine art center gallery at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania. Willis' work was also included in the following group exhibitions: *Horizon: Contemporary Landscape* at the Community Arts Center, Danville, KY; *Works on Paper* at the South Shore Art Center, Cohasset, MA; *Over the Edge: Paperworks Unbound* at the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, Brooklyn, NY; and *AccessArt*, a Brooklyn Arts Council benefit exhibition at BAC Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.

Murray Zimiles, Art+Design, had work featured in the publication *Contemporary Cape Cod Artists: People and Places* by Deborah Forman (Shiffer Press, 2014), which led to his inclusion in two group exhibitions in the summer and fall of 2014 celebrating: *Contemporary Cape Cod Artists* at the Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA, and the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth, MA. The Berta Walker Gallery in Provincetown, MA, presented his recent landscape paintings, which were on view in August 2014. The Florida Holocaust Museum has acquired 150 pictures (paintings, drawings, artist books, and prints) and opened a major exhibition of Zimiles' artwork that ran from Oct. 25, 2014, through Jan. 8, 2015. On Sept. 29, he participated in a panel discussion at the Center for Jewish History in New York on the mural recently restored at the Chai Adam Synagogue in Burlington, VT.

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Michael Bell-Smith, New Media, was commissioned by Impakt in Utrecht, the Netherlands, to develop a performative lecture for presentation at its yearly arts festival; he gave the talk on Oct. 29, 2014. His solo exhibition, *Rabbit Season, Duck Season*, was on view at Foxy Production Gallery in New York City from Oct. 10 through Nov. 26; it was reviewed online by *Animal* and *artcritical*, and selected as an *Artforum* Critics' Pick. He was included in the group exhibition *LikeNewLandscape* presented by Front Company in New York City, which ran through Oct. 19. Bell-Smith also performed with curator/artist Gordon Hall at Foxy Production Gallery as part of the non-profit arts group Boffo's experimental conversation series.

Tega Brain, New Media, presented a public lecture, "The Art of Eccentric Engineering," in September at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, as part of the Pratt Digital Art Lecture Series. Brain also presented "The Phenology Clock: Other Perspectives on Time" at the Feral Experimental Symposium, University of New South Wales, Australia, and gave a public workshop on the Phenology Clock tool at the symposium held in August 2014. Brain was awarded a commission from the Science Gallery, Dublin, for *The Archive of Old and New Events*, a work that was shown in the *Strange Weather* exhibition from July through October 2014.

Iris Cahn, Film, presented her paper "Valuing Nature" at the annual conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies in Seattle in March 2014, in a panel, "Landscape and Historical Perspectives at the Intersection of Place and Style," sponsored by the CinemArts film and art history organization.

Stephen A. Cooke, Chemistry, last July was elected a member of the International Advisory Committee for the International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy, as well as to the editorial board of the *Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy*, an international journal published by Elsevier. He co-authored a paper with B. E. Long and S. E. Novick that was published in 2014 in the *Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy*: "Measurement of the $J = 1 - 0$ Pure Rotational Transition in Excited Vibrational States of the Singlet Sigma Ground State of Thorium (II) Oxide, ThO." Cooke is a Doris and Carl Kempner Distinguished Professor for 2014–16, and co-chair of the Pre-Medical/Health Advisory Committee, School of Natural and Social Sciences.

Meagan Curtis, Psychology, published two chapters, "The Long-Term Benefits of Musical Training" and "Music for Health and Wellness," in the book *Music in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, a 2014 release from SAGE Publications.

Peggy A. De Cooke, Psychology, was appointed chair of the SUNY University Faculty Senate Governance Committee.

Anthony Domestico, Literature, published reviews of the following works: Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven* in the *San Francisco Chronicle*; Joshua Mehigan's *Accepting the Disaster in Commonweal*; David Bromwich's *The Intellectual Life of Edmund Burke* in the *Christian Science Monitor*; and Edward St. Aubyn's *Lost for Words* in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He also published two round-up reviews, one on poetry and another on prose, and a profile/essay on the novelist Marilynne Robinson, all in *Commonweal*, and an essay on the poet/novelist Ben Lerner in the *Boston Review*. Domestico presented a paper, "Modernisms and Religions," at a conference on religion and literature at the University of Toronto. He co-organized a conference, "Christianity and Culture and Criticism and . . ." at Villanova University, which was held in November 2014. At the conference, he delivered a paper, "Clampitt and the Cloisters."

Lee Ehrman, Biology, was elected to the Honor Roll of the Phi Beta Kappa Undergraduate Honor Society. Ehrman has been a member since the 1950s; the Honor Roll distinction is for sustained scholarly achievement.

Jan Factor, Biology, presented the paper "Suspension Feeding by Larvae of American Lobsters (*Homarus americanus*)," coauthored with **Silke K. Vigue** (senior staff assistant, office of natural and social sciences) at the tenth international "Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management" in Cancun, Mexico, in May 2014. Vigue is a Purchase alumna ('13), and the paper resulted in part from her senior project research, for which she won the Outstanding Senior Award in Biology.



Geoffrey Field, History, published a review of M. Roodhouse's *Black Market Britain, 1939–1955* (Oxford University Press) in the *English Historical Review* in August 2014. He also chaired a session and presented a response to three papers by U.K. scholars on the theme "Education, Class, and Meritocracy in Twentieth-Century Britain" at the North American Conference on British Studies' annual meeting in Minneapolis in November 2014.

William H. Flank, Mathematics/Computer Science, was inducted into Temple University's Gallery of Success for distinguished alumni as the 2014 designee of the College of Science and Technology during the Oct. 10–12 Homecoming weekend, in conjunction with the dedication of the university's new Science, Education, and Research Center.

Matthew Immergut, Sociology, and **Mary Kosut**, Media, Society, and the Arts, published their article "Visualizing Charisma: Representations of the



Charismatic Touch" in the peer-reviewed journal *Visual Studies* in October 2014. Immergut also published an article, "When Charisma Doesn't Fail: Charismatic Authority and Dissonance Management in the Case of Diamond Mountain," in the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* last year.

Chrys Ingraham, Sociology, presented her research study "Minding the Gap: How Institutional Accommodation Texts Mediate the Everyday Accessibility Experience for Persons with Disabilities in Higher Education" at the Institutional Ethnography workshop of the Society for the Study of Social Problems' annual conference in San Francisco in August 2014.

Mary Kosut, Media, Society and the Arts, curated *In Every Dream Home...: Works by Brendan Loper, Michael Dickey, and Mike Schreiber* at GCA in Bushwick, Brooklyn, which ran from Aug. 22 through Sept. 21, 2014.

George P. Kraemer, Biology and Environmental Studies, coauthored a book chapter with Jang K. Kim and Charles Yarish that has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming book *Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture in the U.S.* Kraemer, Kim, Yunxiang Mao, and Yarish published "Growth and Pigment Content of *Gracilaria tikvahiae* McLachlan under Fluorescent and LED Lighting," and Kim, Kraemer, and Yarish published "Field Scale Evaluation of Seaweed Aquaculture as a Nutrient Bioextraction Strategy in Long Island Sound and the Bronx River Estuary," both in the journal *Aquaculture* in 2014.



Steve Lambert, New Media, presented "Making the Impossible Possible: The Art of Activism" with the Center for Artistic Activism at the "Communications Network" conference in Philadelphia in October 2014. He and the center received a \$162,000 grant from the Open Society Foundations to continue their work training grassroots activists, primarily in Eastern Europe and Africa, working on public health. His participation on a United Nations panel

in 2014 affected the human rights report to the 69th General Assembly on Oct. 28. Lambert was a finalist in several categories at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids; he made headlines by pledging that, if he won, he would give the monetary prize (which could have been as much as \$200,000) to LGBT causes in response to antigay funding by the supporting foundations. Lambert showed his piece "Public Forum at Space One Eleven" in Birmingham, AL, in September 2014. His work was exhibited at Generator Projects in Dundee, Scotland, and in *Unrest: Art, Activism & Revolution* at the Helen Day Art Center in November. His "Capitalism Works for Me! True/False" was shown at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester, U.K. Lambert also presented his work as a guest speaker/visiting artist at Grand Valley State University, Michigan, this past November. He collaborated with Scott Vermeire on a video performance for the NewBridge Project and the 404th Wall, a satellite project of International Symposium on Electronic Art in Dubai. And he was noted by Time.com as having one of the best "404 Error" pages on the Internet.



Catherine Lewis, Creative Writing, won the 2014 Flash Fiction competition sponsored by the journal *CALYX* for her piece called "Period."

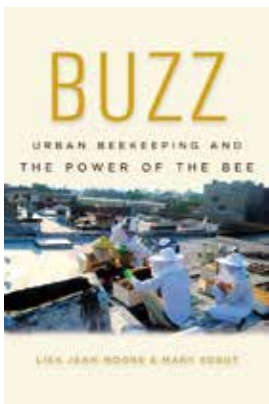
Sara Magenheimer, New Media, is one of the 2014 recipients of the Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant, an unrestricted \$10,000 grant. She was awarded the Lighthouse Works Residency on Fisher's Island, NY, this last July and August. Magenheimer's film *Seven Signs that Mean Silence* was featured in the Projections section of the 52nd New York Film Festival, held from Sept. 26 through Oct. 12, 2014, at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. An image from the video was included in three group exhibitions in New York last summer: *Teen Glazed* at the Jane Harstock Gallery at Greenwich House, *Purple States* at the Andrew Edlin Gallery, and *Views from the Window* at Chapter NY.



Rachel McCain, Humanities, published last fall the inaugural issue of the *Blue Door Quarterly Journal*—a literary and art publication created by the Blue Door Gallery with help from a Yonkers Cultural Arts Initiative Grant from ArtsWestchester. Although the journal was created to encourage artistic expression from Yonkers residents, anyone can submit to the publication, regardless of place of residence.

Kathleen McCormick, Literature and Writing, read her memoir, "I Always Felt Like I Was on Pretty Good Terms with the Virgin Mary, Even Though I Hadn't Gotten Pregnant in High School," at a plenary session of the "Virgin Mary in Britain and Ireland" conference, St. John University, York, U.K. which was held in June 2014.

Jeanine Meyer, Mathematics/Computer Science, and **Marty Lewinter**, a former Purchase College professor of mathematics, have a contract with John Wiley and Sons to publish their book, *Elementary Number Theory with Programming*; it is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2015.



Lisa Jean Moore, Sociology and Gender Studies, and **Mary Kosut**, Media, Society, and the Arts, were featured on WFUV's *CityScapes* on July 18, 2014. The discussion with host George Bodarky was about urban beekeeping and their experiences related to their 2013 publication *Buzz: Urban Beekeeping and the Power of the Bee*. Both were honored with the Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the Animals and Society section of the American Sociological Association for the book.

Jason Pine, Anthropology and Media, Society, and the Arts, gave a talk, "Meth Labs, Alchemy, and the Matter of Life," at

the conference "Life, in Theory: The Eighth Annual Meeting of the European Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts," in Turin, Italy, in June 2014. A forum dedicated to Pine's 2012 book from the University of Minnesota Press, *The Art of Making Do in Naples*, "Dentro la città: Una discussione a partire dal libro *The Art of Making Do* di Jason Pine," which included Luciano Brancaccio, Nick Dines, Jason Pine, and Marcello Ravveduto, was published in the journal *Meridiana*.

Lorraine Plourde, Media, Society, and the Arts and Anthropology, published an article, "Cat Cafés, Affective Labor, and the Healing Boom in Japan," in the peer-reviewed journal *Japanese Studies* in June 2014.

Jeff Scheible, Cinema Studies, had an article, "Longing to Connect: Cinema's Year of OS Romance," published in *Film Quarterly* in the fall of 2014. He introduced and moderated a discussion with filmmakers Hunter Snyder and Peter Bo Rappmund following a screening of their work at Anthology Film Archives, part of NYU's "Lines and Nodes Symposium on Media, Infrastructure, and Aesthetics," on Sept. 20.

Alexis Silver, Sociology, Latin American Studies, had an article, "Clubs of Culture and Capital: Immigrant and Second-Generation Incorporation in a New Destination School," accepted by the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Brooke Singer, New Media, was awarded an Open Society Documentary Photography Project Grant for 2014. She will be redeveloping and expanding her current data-visualization project, *Superfund365.org*, in partnership with Lois Gibbs of the Center for Health, Environment & Justice.



Joseph Skrivanek, Chemistry, was awarded \$928,428 from the National Institutes of Health Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program for another five years, through 2019. This is the fourth renewal of the original grant that he obtained in 2000. The program provides underrepresented students in the biomedical and behavioral sciences at six community colleges with support services to ease the transition from a two-year to a four-year institution. The support services include tutoring, mentoring, scholarships, and a summer research experience at Purchase. Over the past 14 years, more than 200 students have participated; of these, 85 percent have transferred to a four-year institution (42 percent to Purchase), 75 percent have completed their BA or BS degrees, and 33 percent are pursuing postgraduate work.

Wayne Te Brake, History, presented a paper, "Making Religious Peace Possible in Early Modern Europe," at the "Religious Wars in Early Modern Europe and Contemporary Islam: Reflections, Patterns, and Comparisons"

conference at Columbia University and the City University of New York in October 2014.

Jennifer Uleman, Philosophy, served as a mentor at a networking and mentoring workshop for graduate women in philosophy held at Princeton University in August 2014. She contributed to the "Teaching" and "Balancing Work and the Rest of Life" panels.

Gary Waller, Literature and Cultural Studies, recently gave several conference presentations: "Traces and Fades: The Walsingham Ballad, the Annunciation, and Shakespeare's Plays" at the Shakespeare Association of America in St. Louis, March 2014; "Mary under Duress: The Stories behind the Annunciation Story" at York St. John University and the Centre for Marian Studies at the University of Roehampton; and "The Virgin Mary in Britain and Ireland" at York St. John University, York, U.K., in June 2014. Waller also gave a poetry reading from "'To beeleeve this but a fiction and dunn to please and pass the time': Re-imagining Mary Wroth and William Herbert in Feigning Poetry" at the Renaissance Society of America in New York City in April 2014. He presented "Penshurst's 'Sad Pilgrim': Robert Sidney's Sixth Song" at Penshurst Place in Kent, England, featuring a Globe Education "Read Not Dead" staged reading of Lady Mary Wroth's play *Love's Victory* in June 2014. Waller also published "Kristeva's 'New Knowledge': Terrorism, Martyrdom, and Psychoanalytic Humanism: Insights from Two Early Modern Instances" in *Martyrdom and Terrorism: Pre-Modern to Contemporary Perspectives*, edited by Dominic Janes and Alex Houen (Oxford University Press, 2014).

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Edmund Cionek, Music History, had the premiere of his piece *Fun Music* on Oct. 7, 2014, by the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Gerald Steichen. The work was commissioned to celebrate the orchestra's 50th anniversary season.

Judith Dupré, Liberal Studies, received the 2014 IPPY Gold Medal/Best Book in Architecture Award from the Independent Publisher Book Awards for her work *Skyscrapers*. The awards ceremony was held on May 28, 2014, at Book Expo America. On Nov. 19, Dupré gave a talk at the Skyscraper Museum in Manhattan regarding the book; she was featured in a conversation with Alice Bloom. Dupré announced the publication of the twentieth-anniversary edition of *The Heart of the Beast*, a graphic novel she first published in 1994. The book was co-written by Dean Motter and Dupré, and illustrated by Sean Phillips; it was published by Dynamite Entertainment.

Beth Gersh-Nesic, Art History, is pleased to announce the publication of her essay "Portrait as Performance: The Theater of the Self in Kathleen Gilje's Series of Curators, Critics, and Connoisseurs," in *Breaking New Ground in Art History: A Festschrift in Honor of Alicia Craig Faxon*, edited by Margaret A. Hanni (New Academic Publishing, 2014). Gersh-Nesic also published a second review of Diane Radycki's book *Paula Modersohn-Becker: The First Modern Woman Artist* (Yale University Press, 2013), in *Theory in Action: The Journal for Transformative Studies Institute*, in July 2014. Gersh-Nesic had already written about the book in relation to feminist theory; this review focuses on Modersohn-Becker as a modernist.

Stephen Kleinman, Mathematics, published *Precalculus, Clearly Explained with Examples*, in 2014.

Mary Ellen Marks, Liberal Studies, has three recent contributions to the publication www.thehook.org: a profile of five alumni, "Mission Accomplished: Five Dominican College Alumni of Distinction" (Nov./Dec. 2014); a profile of the artist and teacher Eleanor Miller's advanced painting class at the Rockland Center for the Arts' "Course of Artistic Discovery" (May/June 2014); and a profile of artist Sue Barrasi, "A Natural Calling" (March/April 2014).

Amazing



IN DECEMBER 2014, PURCHASE MAGAZINE EDITORS POSTED A REQUEST ON FACEBOOK LOOKING FOR "AMAZING ALUMNI COUPLES." WE ASKED FRIENDS AND FANS TO SEND IN STORIES OF HOW AND WHEN THEY MET THEIR PARTNERS/SPOUSES/SIGNIFICANT OTHERS WHILE THEY WERE AT PURCHASE COLLEGE. HERE, IN THEIR OWN WORDS, ARE THE STORIES OUR ALUMNI SHARED, IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE SUBMITTED.

Peter Jacobs '82
and **Elizabeth Smith Jacobs '83** (both Visual Arts)



It was Valentine's Day 1980. My suitemate Susan had invited Peter to come over that evening. When he arrived, to his surprise, there were two other already established valentines in her room. I stuck my head in to say hello, and realized the cute guy I had met a few times before was in an awkward situation. I said "Would anyone like to go to the pub?" Peter immediately said "I would!" and off we went. We fell in love that night over a pitcher of beer and made out under the strobe lights of Wednesday Night at South. After my freshman year we lived together in assorted configurations, from sleeping in the living room of an apartment with eight guys to an elaborate living plan with three other Purchase couples. We were married on leap year day of 1984.

Giovanna Federico '03 and **Thomas Hommrich '03** (both Dramatic Writing)

Ted and I met on the Quad during orientation in 1999. When he high-fived me good-bye that day I thought it was unusual. We were best friends for two years before Ted confessed his attraction to me at the White Plains train station. I said, "I'll think about it," and thanked him for dropping me off. After eight months of courtship I finally told him I loved him in



front of my apartment in the Olde. After Purchase, we moved to Jacksonville, FL, and then to Los Angeles in 2005 to attend graduate school. That same year we got married on my parents' farm in the Sierra Nevadas. Most recently, we welcomed a baby on Nov. 22, 2014—Huckleberry James Hommrich.

Lauren (Johnson) Blass '09 (Visual Arts) and **Michael Blass '09** (Liberal Studies)



We met as freshmen while living on the second floor of Far Side. Mike had been battling my neighbor through a series of pranks, and I met him while he was in the midst of some nefarious act. Our first "date" was at the dining hall, and from that point on we were inseparable. We moved to Seattle after college and were married in 2010. We had our first baby, Miles Blass, on Dec. 22, 2014.

Eric Burgos '10 and **Sully Gonzalez '10** (both Sociology)

We met during the Educational Opportunity Program summer orientation in 2006. Sully and I instantly hit it off and became good friends. We had the same senses of humor and joked around all



the time. We started liking each other a lot and decided to give a romantic relationship a try. It was one of our favorite decisions of those we made in college. On Nov. 18, 2007, we got together and have been together ever since. We are currently engaged to be married and are planning for our wedding in July!

Donelle Charles '07 (Liberal Arts) and **Tiffany Yusko Charles '06** (Music)



Well, our story. Hmm, it was so long ago. We met in the beginning of 2004. Donelle had just happened to show up at the same party I was at in Alumni Village one Friday or Saturday. He asked a friend who I was and decided to approach me. We hit it off right away and had great conversations together.

We hung out a whole bunch of times and even went on our first date at the Hub. Donelle and I finally decided to make it official on March 9, 2004, and ever since then it's been a joyride of love, laughs, and good times! We got engaged in July 2010 and were married on June 5,

2011. We recently celebrated the first birthday of our son, Sean, who was born on Jan. 9, 2014.

Aiden Kaplan '15 (Liberal Studies) and **Ayanna Sims '14** (Literature)



Ayanna and I were friends first and slowly realized that our relationship could be much more than it was. She is from Bellmore, NY, and I am from the Bronx. We met during her senior year (my junior year) and just recently celebrated our one-year anniversary. I couldn't imagine my world without her in it, and because of Purchase College we both got to find love and feel accepted while we explored it; for that I will forever be grateful.

Amanda Maertz '14 (Arts Management) and **Kevin McQuade '15** (Liberal Studies)



Kevin and I met through a mutual friend my sophomore year at Purchase. Kevin was a baseball player and I was a soccer player so we had a lot of similar friends and in-

terests, but for some reason we had never met until then. When we eventually did meet, we hit it off right away and became fast friends. The following January he finally asked me to be his girlfriend. We have been inseparable ever since; two years later we're still together.



Brendan Coster '04 (Literature) and **Nicole (Friedman) Coster '04** (Sociology)

How we met: my roommate was in a class with Brendan. One day they got involved in a class discussion, and Brendan ended up coming back to our dorm with her to continue talking, and that's how we met. We actually didn't like each other much at first—I thought he was arrogant and insufferable; he thought I was standoffish! But through mutual friends (and over many meals at the dining hall) we spent a lot of time together. We slowly learned how to be friends, and eventually it grew into more. We celebrated 11 years together in March, seven years married in May, and we have a wonderful five-year-old son!

Gordon Bartow '09 (Jazz Studies) and **Audrey Mae DeRocker '09** (Drama Studies)

Alumni Couples



We met and began dating in 2006, the spring of our freshman year, while singing together as founding members of Choral Pleasure, Purchase's a cappella group. We stayed together throughout all of our time at Purchase; then we moved to Port Chester and eventually to Brooklyn. While at Purchase, we also sang together for several years in Soul Voices Ensemble, worked together as orientation leaders and ushers at the Performing Arts Center, and directed/composed an original musical. We were married in 2012 and now live in Brooklyn, pursuing our fields. Audrey works in wardrobe at the Metropolitan Opera as well as freelancing as an actor and singer. Gordon got his music education certificate from Brooklyn College in 2014 and is hoping to secure an education position in the New York area. We play in a band together called Every Flavor Weather Machine, and have our own called Future Fauna. And we have two cats!

Jon Bromberg '76 and Jan (Rugh) Bromberg '78 (both Design Tech)

We got married in 1978, and we celebrated our 36th anniversary in September. We have two kids, Jennifer, who turned 30 on "Epic Pi day," March 14, 2015 (3.14.15), and Jeff, who turned 25 in September. We also have two cats. We live in Sammamish, WA, and love it

here. We are very active in emergency management as volunteers and as ham radio



operators. As CERT (community emergency response team) instructors, we get the opportunity to "put on a show" every time we conclude a class with a mock disaster drill. So thanks, Purchase!

Rose Bookbinder Goldstein '06 (Political Science) and **Max Weider '05** (Sociology)

They met in Spanish class. She asked if anyone wanted to study for the upcoming test. He said yes. She said she had an internship at a local workers' center where Spanish-speaking students could use and expand their Spanish. He said "Sign me up." He asked if she wanted to carpool from campus to their internship. She said yes. He took her on a romantic walk at a local beach on their way home from the internship one day. Viva, their daughter, was born in June 2013. The rest is history.



Rie Schmidt '77 and Ben Verdery '78 (both Music)

Purchase was very new when Ben and I were there. There was no music building, and classes were held in Campus Center North. Ben plays classical guitar and I play flute. There was no Performing Arts Center, so most concerts were held in Campus Center North as well. We met in 1975, my second year (and Ben's first) at Purchase. We started dating, and I remember I celebrated my 21st birthday with Ben. We were married in 1979, and have two children, John and Mitsuko, who are now 26 and 24 years old. We live in New York City and both teach and play music. Ben is a professor of music at the Yale University School of Music, and also plays solo concerts and teaches master classes. I teach at four music schools in the New York City area. I also play with the American Symphony.

Jesse Ortigas '12 (New Media) and **Alison Ferreira '12** (Liberal Arts)



I transferred to Purchase in 2011 and needed some work on campus, and a buddy of mine was working for the Performing Arts Center. I got a job there and on my first day I was taken around the offices of the PAC and was introduced to a plethora of faces, but hers was the only one that I remembered that day. Well, sort of. . . . She was the only one who didn't completely turn around to

meet me; she just lifted her hand and waved. It was like a really cheesy eighties movie, because I found myself head over heels for a girl whose face I hadn't even seen. After a while, it was no secret around the office that I had the biggest crush on Alison, and one day during work I ended up getting her phone number. I'd like to say that was that and we fell madly in love, but it took months for me to get a date. Two years later she's the love of my life and I wouldn't want to look at the back of anyone else's head for the rest of my life.

Jessie Angelovich '12 (Graphic Design) and **Lindsey Baker '11** (Psychology)



The first time we met was while Lindsey was coaching rugby on the Great Lawn. Jessie was picking up her roommate from practice (and scoping out any cute girls she could flirt with) by the two trees in the middle of the lawn. It took a few practices and Jessie coming to "pick up her roommate" for us to start talking. The rugby team was practicing how to properly tackle someone and Lindsey tried tackling Jessie, which led to a concussion. We wish we could say our relationship started off with a BANG, but unfortunately all it did was knock some sense out of (or

into) us, enough for us to flirt shamelessly for three years straight. Although Lindsey likes to say she knew from that very moment that she loved Jessie, it took Jessie a little longer to realize what she had had right in front of her the whole time. We both had relationships with other people throughout college but something always kept us together and allowed us to grow as friends. We started officially dating during Jessie's senior year of college, after Lindsey had graduated the year before. We moved in together after Jessie graduated in 2012 and have been living together ever since. Jessie proposed to Lindsey this past July, right by the same tree that brought us together so many years before on the Great Lawn. Lindsey said yes, and in that very spot she swept Jessie off her feet . . . for the second time (this time much less painful than the first). We are planning for our wedding, which will be filled with Purchase alumni, in October 2016. Purchase not only helped us grow as professionals and learn about our majors; it enabled us to find our true love.

Mike Grabowski '03 and Kelly (Tianello) Grabowski '03 (both Design Tech)



I met my wife of seven-plus years at Purchase . . . on the first day we moved in. Funnily enough, we lived next door to each other as freshmen, we were in the

design/technology program together, and I even helped her pack her car at the end of freshman year. We stuck with the entertainment design/tech track for four years together... and it took until there were only a few months left of our senior year for us to get together. A few years later we got married, and we had a good number of our Purchase friends at our wedding. One of them pointed out that it was funny that we got married on Aug. 25. That was the anniversary of all of us meeting at Purchase—that was the same date we all moved in.

I now work as a senior designer for the Lighting Design Group, doing broadcast lighting. Kelly is the workroom manager at JPKNY Costumes, building costumes for everything from Broadway shows to commercials to the Ringling Bros. circus.

Jody Strong '91 (Literature) and **Michael Strong '90** (Acting)



We were both freshmen in 1986, though Michael was seven years older and a resident coordinator in the Big Haus, while I was an 18-year-old. We met when a friend of mine suggested that we go check up on her friend who was sick. There he was, sick as a dog, lying in bed. But for me it was love at first sight. Michael and I had many one-on-one platonic visits over the next year or so, but he had a long-term girlfriend and was always faithful to her. I eventually professed my love for him and asked him to choose. He chose the girlfriend. I was heartbroken and vowed never to speak to him again. Michael graduated in May 1990. I spent one extra semester at Purchase, graduating in December 1990. I left immediately after graduation to go on tour with Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble as a stage manager, with no time even to find closure from my amazing four and a half years at Purchase. So when we returned home for a one-week tour hiatus in February 1991, I made plans to see as many Purchase friends as possible. I had a list of

people's phone numbers and blindly called everyone, line by line, without much forethought. So when I called Michael Strong, the name and number on the next line, I didn't realize what I had done until I heard his voice on the other end of the line.

We made plans to see each other that week, on Valentine's Day. We went to dinner and took a ride on the Staten Island Ferry, where he begged for my forgiveness for breaking my heart. The rest of that night was a romantic ride through time, ending with a kiss on a subway platform that brought the cleaning crew to applause. We were married on Sept. 12, 1992. Michael worked at Purchase for the Performing Arts Center from 1990 to 2004, and I worked at Purchase for the Conservatory of Music from 1997 to 2004. Purchase is in our blood and hearts.

Colm McCarthy '09 (Chemistry and Biology) and **Kaitlin Carr '09** (Biology)



Kaitlin and I met in Dr. Ehrman's genetics class in 2007. We were both fresh transfer students. We became quick friends and would meet frequently for group study for our overlapping classes. After graduation, Kaitlin attended Hunter College, where she earned her doctorate in physical therapy, and I attended McGill University, earning my medical doctorate. We became good friends at Purchase and kept in touch during graduate school. We started dating, were engaged, and married in June 2013. Since being married we have moved to Hamilton, Ontario, where Kaitlin is working as a physical therapist and I am a resident at McMaster University in orthopaedic surgery. We have both continued to look back fondly at our experience and education at Purchase and have kept in touch with Dr. Ehrman.

Elizabeth (Curtis) Moss '91 (Art History) and **Benjamin Moss '90** (Sculpture)



In 1987, a sculpture major and an art history major met at a party in Port Chester. At the time, Ben was living at the House of Love in Byram, CT, and Liz was in the Olde apartments. It was love at first sight! A few years later, Liz and Ben were married in front of the beautiful tree that lives behind the admissions building on the Purchase campus. They have been married for 22 years and have three children: Jacob (20), Rachael (17), and Evelyn (16). Ben and Liz live in northern New Hampshire. Liz is the teacher/librarian and senior project coordinator, and Ben is the director of technology at the White Mountain School. They spend their summers in their home on the coast of Maine.

Samantha Boyer '04 (Languages and Culture) and **Mario Partenope '04** (New Media)



Sam and Mario met during orientation their freshman year. They were part of Marjorie Miller's "Beginnings" program. Sam had a boyfriend at the time, but that didn't stop Mario. By October they were dating, and a little over 14 years later they are still together. Married in 2009, they live in Westchester County with their yellow Lab, Ellie, and their 1-year-old daughter, Melanie.

James Bacon '86 (Music) and **Elise (Schnakenberg) Bacon '87** (Dance)



Jim and Elise Bacon with five of their six children in Salem, MA, at an old-time costume photo place.

James and I met during my freshman year at SUNY Purchase, in the fall of 1983. He had a casual girlfriend he stayed with throughout his time at Purchase. Jim was a classical guitar major, and I was a dance major. We spoke only a few times, but he was impossible to forget. So we graduated. I moved to New York City to pursue dance, and Jim began his law studies at CUNY in Queens. We did not stay in touch. Fast-forward two years, and we were both (coincidentally) living in Westchester. I was working in Manhattan and Jim was still commuting to Queens. There was a snowstorm, and en route south we each gave up the drive. Since we were close to Purchase, we each took refuge in the library. While I was at the copy machine, Jim walked up from the lower level and saw me there. He renewed the acquaintance and the rest, as they say, is history.

We have been married for 24 years and have six children. Jim is still playing music and I am still dancing. There is no way we would have met without Purchase, and we could not imagine being with anyone else.

May (Herbert) Neils '87 (Mathematics) and **Christopher Neils '83** (Chemistry)



Christopher and I met in February 1981 at Purchase. He was a chemistry major and I was a mathematics major. Even though both of those subjects' classes were on the same floor of the Natural

Sciences Building, we did not bump into each other there, but rather met through a mutual friend. We were married in 1986 and have two children. Our older child—our daughter, Melissa—is now a senior at SUNY Purchase, too! She is a theatre and performance major, specializing in lighting design.

Pearson Constantino '01 (Music) and **Julia Wrona '03** (Film)



Our dorm rooms in Crossroads were three rooms apart and it was there that we met the evening before our first day of classes at Purchase. Our departments, film and music, shared a building so we ran into each other on the stairs the next day and ended up going in search of coffee at 9 p.m. We are both from the other side of New York State, so we didn't know Westchester at all—this was before GPS and we didn't have a map or a cell phone—and we ended up in Queens via Manhattan (where we did find an open coffee shop). We finally made it back to campus around 4 a.m. Fifteen years later we are still finding adventures—big and small—and working and traveling together.

Breanna Schebell Orentlikher '09 (Political Science/Gender Studies) and **Zev Orentlikher '10** (Biology)



I met Zev my sophomore year, in the fall of 2006, in the Hub. I was running late and decided to swing by the

Hub to grab some snacks and he was standing in front of me in line. He dropped a water bottle and I picked it up and handed it to him and he did a double take. We started to talk about random stuff—his accent, where he was from, blah blah—until he paid and left. I turned to my friend Patricia and told her I was going to marry him. She told me to drink my coffee and relax! Zev and I dated for the rest of my college years. A year after we graduated and moved into our first apartment in Brooklyn, we went to City Hall and eloped; a couple of years later we had a ceremony and reception with our friends and family in my hometown of Niagara Falls. We had the BEST time at Purchase and have been inseparable since that day in the Hub. Whenever we're in Westchester we stop by campus and get very nostalgic. Those were some of the best times of our lives! I miss them all the time and wish I could go back and relive them!

Carl Lindner '85 (Environmental Science) and **Rosemarie (Ferraro) Lindner '85** (Sociology/Anthropology minor)



We met at Purchase when we were both freshmen in 1981. While waiting to take a writing placement exam before classes even began, we were the first two people in the room. We smiled at each other and became fast friends. At the end of sophomore year we began dating. We were engaged in the beginning of our senior year, and in 1985 we both graduated. Carl has been working in his field as a consultant for almost 25 years. Rosemarie is a paralegal/office manager at a local law firm. We were married in 1986, had our wonderful son in 1988, and moved west to California in 1994. We're still happily married today and living in the Los Angeles area. We both have very fond memories of our time at Purchase.

Jessica Mavaro '09 (English) and **Mike Stoller '09** (Arts Management)



Jessica and Mike met at Purchase their freshman year and began dating in December 2006. They got engaged last July and married on Feb. 28, 2015. Jessica is working as the CRM administrator for the Clinton Foundation and Mike is working as a Web developer for Pubslush. They spend romantic evenings working side by side, coding websites and building/maintaining databases—they have Purchase loans to pay off, after all! Purchase will always hold a very special place in their hearts—they even came up with the idea of having a heliotrope-and-puce-themed wedding.

Aryana Alexis Anderson '09 (Dramatic Writing) and **Joel Neville Anderson '09** (Film)

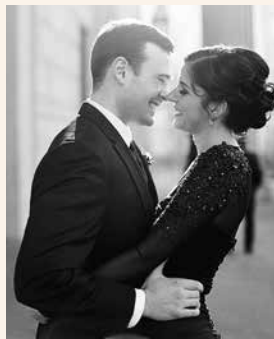


Among explications of persistence of vision and accounts of world cinema history, Aryana and Joel met during the two-semester Cinematic Expression course required of first-year dramatic writing and film conservatory BFA students. Each pursuing projects in theatre and film, the two became a couple in their senior year and moved to Queens shortly thereafter, where they work in arts practice and education and continue to play with cameras and ideas.

Larry Isaacs '76 (Biology) and **Nadine Wenig '78** (Dance)

We married in 1980 and just celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary. We have two sons, aged 26 and 30. (We met at a party off campus.)

James Black '10 (Philosophy) and **Hannah (Wolfson) Black '10** (Literature)



We were introduced by a professor—Kathy McCormick—at our freshman orientation in 2006. That introduction led to us becoming acquaintances, then friends; throughout our first semester, that friendship quietly turned into love. We haven't looked back since and were married in 2012! Purchase gave us so much more than a diploma, and for that we're forever grateful.

Peter Bakija '92 (Visual Arts) and **Caitlin Finlay '92** (Anthropology)



Caitlin and I both started Purchase in the fall of 1988. We were randomly placed in the same hall. During freshman orientation, there was, strangely, a square dance as a kooky evening activity. Having been an avid square dancer in high school gym class (I had a choice between playing football with a bunch of lunky dudes or square dancing with a whole class full of girls), I was all about teaching everyone in the hall how to square dance in time for the event. So I walked out into the hall and yelled "Hey! Anyone here know how to square dance?"—hoping to find a partner to help teach folks the moves. For some reason, Caitlin volunteered that she did (she too had taken square dancing in high school), and we taught the hall how to square dance. We totally ruled that square dance. And 26 years later, Caitlin and I are still together.

Brian Tully '92 (Studio Composition) and **Amy (Warman) Tully '91** (Psychology/Music minor)



Brian and I loved attending Purchase College. In addition to sharing an interest in music, we both worked as resident assistants in the Olde apartment complex. We became a couple 25 years ago and celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary on Oct. 2, 2014. Purchase College was a special place for us, so we had our wedding reception on campus at the old administration house and grounds. We're thankful for the wonderful educational experiences and lifetime friendships that began at Purchase!

Jennifer Viscovich '06 (Literature) and **Ryan Schwarz '04** (Liberal Studies)



We met in 2002 on campus. I was a freshman and Ryan was a senior. Ryan was the first person I made friends with at Purchase. We lost touch for a few years after he graduated. We reunited the semester I was graduating and have been together ever since.

One day after we had moved in together and were going through our clothes we had a disagreement over an orange hoodie. Ryan claimed it was his, while I insisted it was mine. During the time in which we had lost touch, I had bought it from someone who was selling some clothes at Purchase. I paid a dollar

for it. Ryan recognized the hoodie as one he had lost years earlier. In fact, it was the same hoodie. We knew for sure because it had a stain on the sleeve where he had spilled some paint. Even then I was being drawn toward him and didn't know it!

We were married in 2008. I am a teacher now, and Ryan is an attorney. This Sept. 2 we welcomed our baby girl, Vera, into the world. We certainly owe a lot to that one day we bumped into each other at Purchase!

Joe Matoske '10 (Cinema Studies) and **Sasha VanHoven '10** (Literature)



I met Joe when he kissed my best friend in the middle of G Street, on the night both he and Obama were elected to the presidency (one of the PSGA, the other of the U.S.A.) Things ended there between them, but Joe and I became close the following year. At the start of our senior year, a group of friends decided that we should all move to a brand new city together after graduation—and then one by one they all dropped out, until only Joe and I were left. By March 2010, the tension between Joe and me was so bad that one of his friends declared that if Joe didn't make out with me, he would. We started dating almost immediately thereafter. We lived in Denver for three amazing, terrifying, adventurous years. We returned to New York City in June 2013 to be closer to family, friends, better jobs, and actual bagels.

Jess Difoggio '11 and **Austin Groves '11** (both Psychology)

Austin and I met when we both moved in early, as we were both athletes, for our first semester at Purchase. We had many of the same friends and shared several courses together, so we quickly got to know one another. We began dating in November of our freshman year (2007) and have been



and where we shared our first real kiss. Twelve years later we are still together and still enjoy hanging with some of our closest friends from Purchase. This past October we celebrated our fifth anniversary.

Jessica Vega '05 (Economics with Business Concentration) and **Edwin (Eddie) Vega '04** (Studio Production)



together ever since. After graduating, I moved back home to attend the College of New Jersey to obtain my master's degree in counseling. Austin moved back home to Connecticut to pursue a career as a police officer. After I graduated from my master's program in 2013, Austin and I moved into an apartment together in Hamden, CT. We now live in Sandy Hook, CT, where Austin works as a police officer in Milford and I work at Purchase as an academic advisor in the Advising Center.

Vincenzo Fata '06 (Psychology) and **Monique (Foerst) Fata '06** (Anthropology)



We met in the first semester of our freshman year. We were both walking to W1 since we were commuter students. Vincenzo was walking in front of me and I wanted to say "Hi," but didn't know what to say so I opened with a corny line. We sat talking for an hour in the parking lot and made a date to meet at the Neuberger Museum of Art to settle a debate we ended up having about the second-floor art pieces. The museum became the place of our first date,



We met at SUNY Purchase in 2002 at a party in the Olde apartments. We were married on July 10, 2010, at the Milleridge Cottage in Long Island, NY. We currently reside in Nassau County, NY, and both have successful careers in our respective fields.

Brent McCarter '09 (Literature) and **Brandon Kersey** (Acting)

I graduated from Purchase in 2009 with a degree in literature. Brandon and I met freshman year, in the fall of 2005, and were inseparable. He was in the acting conservatory; my major was undeclared at the time. We were your typical, everyday, cute gay couple at Purchase whose relationship was well known by everyone and yet doomed to end shortly. Unfortunately Brandon had to return home to South Carolina due to financial difficulties, but we kept in touch over the years. During that time I knew that I still loved him, but a relationship was not reasonable because of the distance and our hectic individual lives. This past summer (nearly 10 years later) we decided to take our twice-a-year phone conversations a step further and actually visit each other. It was



the first time we had seen each other in person since freshman year and we picked up exactly where we left off; our bond had remained just as strong over the years. Without a second thought he relocated to Michigan (where I currently reside). We've been officially back together for eight months and it's been magical. We'll never forget our formative years at SUNY Purchase, where not only did we meet the love of our lives but where some of the best years of our lives took place.

Selina Rodriguez Turner '07 and **Desmond Turner '07** both (Liberal Studies)

We began dating in December 2005 and graduated together in 2007. In 2010 Desmond proposed at the top of the Empire State Building and we tied the knot in October 2011. We live in New York City and somehow have managed to pay rent and survive while teaching. We registered for graduate school together at Long Island University and just graduated with our master's degrees, sitting by each other's side, this past May. All in this year, we were blessed with our first baby, Jace Emilio Turner, in February, graduated in May with our master's of science in education degrees, and opened up a preschool in Queens, NY, in the summer. It's been nine years together—three years married—and I'm looking forward to the next 100. While I run the preschool, Desmond is busy teaching social studies to a self-contained class in the South Bronx while also building a basketball program as a coach for his high school's basketball team. Our dream in life is to eventu-

ally be a part of a program that facilitates the positive growth and development of all children.

Alfred Miller '82 (Theatre Tech) and **Alyssa Weinstein '82** (Graphic Design)



We graduated from Purchase in 1982 (the "good old days") and were married on Sept. 21, 1986. We met freshman year and started dating sophomore year—and the rest (as they say) is history. Alfred is currently the executive director of facilities and operations at the NYC Department of Small Business Services, and Alyssa is a client services manager at Two Twelve, an environmental graphic design firm. Almost 30 years later (including grad school [Alfred], eight jobs [combined], one home [Prospect Heights], two kids [16 and 12], two dogs, and two cars), we are proud to be alumni, and stay in touch with many of our Purchase friends.

Jess (Mui) Brabant '06 (Performance, viola) and **Josh Brabant '05** (Visual Arts)

I met Josh the first day of my junior (his senior) year. I went to visit my best friend at his apartment, G 4-4, and Josh was his roommate. We were friends for a long time and officially got together in 2007. We got married on Nov. 5, 2011, and have an amazing 2-1/2-year-old son, Logan.



Dave Shichman '04 (Psychology) and **Vanessa Echavarría '04** (Psychology)

Vanessa and I met the third day of freshman year at Purchase Collage back in 2000 and have been together ever since. We both graduated in 2004 from the psychology department. Now we are both social workers living in New York City. I'm a DJ/producer on the side.

Jamie Murphy '11 (Arts Management) and **Matt Brody '10** (Liberal Studies)



Matt and I met during the winter of 2009 through a mutual friend in Big Haus. A few weeks after meeting and arranging to see each other through our mutual friend, we started hanging out on our own. We soon became inseparable and have been ever since. Some of my fondest memories from our six years together happened on that campus: building forts in the Olde, attending bonfires in the woods, and binge watching B-list zombie movies while getting ready for Zombie Prom. I like to joke that at this point, more years of our relationship have been spent outside Purchase than actually there, which amazes me because it plays such a vital role in our story. Although our days of shared twin XL beds and Culture Shock are far behind us, every April I always remember with a smile on my face how I found the love of my life and my better half in a Big Haus dorm room.

Elizabeth Nieves Burke '97 (Drama Studies) and **David Burke '98** (Design Tech)



We met at SUNY Purchase back in 1994. We were friends for 13 years before we had our first date. From the beginning David would always tell me that he was going to marry me and I always took it as him being silly. Little did I know he was serious—and correct. We married in 2009 and even went to Purchase on our wedding day to have our photographer take pictures of us in front of the university. Our wedding party contained three graduates of Purchase, and our reception was full of Purchase peeps. We are happily married and the proud parents of two gorgeous little boys.

Nathaniel McClure '00 (Economics) and **Andrea Anderson, PhD '00** (Psychology)

I am currently the CEO of Scientifically Proven Entertainment, a video game and entertainment studio. Andrea has a private practice as a psychologist. We met at Purchase in 1998 in the new apartments when I knocked on her door to ask her out; that turned into 16 years, three kids, New York, Los Angeles, Detroit. A remarkable roller coaster with my best friend.

Timothy Dedman '97 (Visual Arts) and **Allison Tuohy '01** (Film)

I met Timothy at SUNY Purchase in 1995. He was a junior visual arts major and I was a freshman film major. After a rocky first year of courtship full of typical college drama, Tim and I became "official" in 1996,

got married 10 years later, in 2006, and had our daughter, Finley Jane, six years after that.

Daniel Lewin '00 (American History) and **Aldeth Pullen '00** (Literature)

We first met in Stephen Dubin's Society of Mass Media course and we were academic rivals. We seemed to be the only two who loved the class and would actively participate. It wasn't until the next year, our junior year, when we were in another Dubin course, that we started talking. By the third Dubin course, taken our senior year, we were living together in an off-campus apartment. We were married in 2003, and currently live on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. We have a house, two German shepherds, and a baby girl, Arielle Grace Lewin, who was born in July 2013.

Sarah Recca '08 and **David Recca '04** (both Music)



Perhaps some Purchase love stories begin with a stroll down the Great Lawn in the fall, or a chance meeting under the Elephant Tree in early spring, but ours is somewhat different. Our chance meeting was in David's Alumni Village apartment, the site of the yearly party thrown by the opera department seniors for the incoming freshmen, affectionately called "Welcome to Hell." As everyone partied, we immediately bonded and talked the night away. Shortly thereafter, David became Sarah's accompanist, and our love of music only brought us closer together. We married on April 30, 2011. Since those days, Sarah has gone on to become the associate director of development at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase and David went on to direct the Purchase

College Chamber Singers and Purchase College Chorus. He is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in conducting at the Yale School of Music and he is the assistant music director for the New Amsterdam Singers in New York. We currently live with our black cat, Simba, in Danbury, CT.

George Burns '76 and **Lisa Goldfarb '76** (both Literature)



Lisa and I first met in French class at Purchase in 1973. We both loved learning French and were in many French classes together, but we didn't begin to become friends until senior year.

At the senior party (where alcohol was flowing), I asked Lisa if she wanted to go to a Mets game after graduation (1976). She shrugged and said, "Call me." I called her three times, and each time she said she would call me back. She never did. She finally agreed to meet me for dinner on the Upper West Side, but when we met, she said she had only about an hour because she was going to the movies with someone else at 8:00. At this point I came to the realization that it was a lost cause, but little did I know that the dinner actually sealed the deal for Lisa. We soon became the best of friends and more, and we were married in 1981. We have two wonderful children (Alexander, who writes for the *New York Times*, and Rachel, who writes for the NYU Law School communications department). France and French continue to be a significant part of our lives. Lisa's work in poetry has involved many research trips to Paris and beyond. She is on sabbatical this year from the Gallatin School at NYU, and we will be in Paris for a month while she is a visiting researcher at the Sorbonne. C'est notre histoire!

Angelique Erdtrachter '15 (Theatre and Performance) and **Colin Walsh '15** (Media, Society, and the Arts)



So we're not quite alumni, but we will be when this is published! I met my boyfriend, Colin, on the SUNY Purchase Class of 2015 Facebook page. We chatted online for a while, and I baked him a cake (so subtle of me) for the first day of school. On move-in day, he came to my room, and we clicked as well in real life as we did online; we have been in love and inseparable since. I'm not a great storyteller, but I'd say our story is one for the Purchase records.

Stephen Sage '04 (Economics) and **Laurie (Minsky) Sage '05** (Journalism)



Though we had mutual friends, lived in Far Side where Steve was a resident assistant, and attended bas-

ketball games (Steve played, Laurie performed with the dance team), we did not meet until 2003. After graduating, we continued dating and got engaged in Paris in 2010, and married on Sept. 9, 2011. We took our engagement photos on campus—what better way to honor Purchase and the place where it all began?

Janice Gorelick '81 and **Charles Paquette '81** (both Dance)



We were both dance majors, and met freshman year at Purchase in 1977. It was a special attraction during one of Mel Wong's improvisation classes that brought a chance encounter. We graduated in 1981, got married in 1982, and have been dancing, teaching, and choreographing together ever since.

Jonas Land '90 (Painting) and **Tami Lurie Land '90** (Photography)



It was 1986 when I first met Tami, and I knew immediately that destiny had rung the proverbial bell. Naturally during our very first actual contact I insulted her; her comeback solidified it. We started dating in 1987. We have been married for 21 amazing years, and have a wonderful son. Sometimes you know, and the path is clear.

1 A Quintessential Purchase Experience:

THE SENIOR PROJECT

By Kristi McKee

The documentary short film *Saving Playland: A Rollercoaster of Reinvention* opens with panoramic sweeps of both the historic amusement park and Long Island Sound, on whose shore the park rests. A resonant voice belonging to Victor Couto '14 introduces the film, and 90 seconds later, viewers see the journalism student standing in front of the Playland entrance sign, microphone in hand, explaining the premise behind his 20-minute exposé on the beloved but troubled park in Rye, NY. *Saving Playland* was Couto's senior project.

Each spring, jubilant seniors from the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) parade across campus en route to the library to turn in their senior projects. At Purchase, the words "senior project" evoke a wide range of emotions, depending mainly on which side of the project one is on. Anxious and intimidated juniors and seniors evolve into a chorus of alumni voices who place senior projects among their single greatest achievements at Purchase. Focusing on one original idea for a year or more and producing a paper or project comparable in scope to a graduate-level thesis under the guidance of a faculty mentor proves for most a chance to refine not only academic skills, but also a host of soft skills valuable regardless of career path. At its best, the senior project can be a transformative process capable of opening doors, influencing careers, and helping define life's purpose.

"I don't know where I would be now without the senior project," says Couto (journalism major, sociology minor). The process confirmed for him that he preferred video to print as a journalistic medium. His summer internship at Retro Report—an online news organization that critiques media coverage of major events of the past through short documentary films—turned into a full-time associate producer position. *Saving Playland* served as a "reel" to demonstrate his abilities. He found his senior project more challenging than expected, but, pleased with the result, he screened the film on campus to an audience of nearly 60 people, which included Rye residents and the former director of Playland.

Enduring the Test of Time

Since the college's founding in the early 1970s, Purchase's educational philosophy has been encouragement of interdisciplinary study and the offer of latitude for students to have some control over their own course of study. Many of the early structures put in place to fulfill that promise—freshman clusters, the twelve-week/four-week semesters, junior field exams, narrative evaluations, pass/fail grades—were dropped for myriad reasons over time. However, the "senior thesis" has endured.

So why has it lasted so long? Suzanne Kessler, a professor of psychology at Purchase since its infancy and now dean of the LAS and vice provost for academic affairs, says despite its high cost to the college, the senior project survives because the faculty remains its strongest advocate. Talk surfaces periodically of scaling it back or dropping it altogether, but the faculty always persuasively champions its power to transform. "It's an amazing opportu-

nity for students and a credit to the college. It's our signature piece and we know, in fact, it's the thing that could make the biggest difference in their lives," says Kessler.

A Rare Opportunity

The existence of a senior thesis is unusual at a public college. Moreover, at public and private schools alike, it's often only the honors students who are given the opportunity to work on a senior capstone. The beauty of the Purchase senior project lies in its democracy—it's required of all students. "We can't predict which students are going to benefit the most," says Kessler. "Who are we to say the student who is already at a 3.8 is the only one who gets to do the thesis? Sometimes you are really surprised," she adds.

Linda Bastone, an associate professor of psychology, agrees. "For many of us firmly committed to public higher education, we have this leveling of the playing field, this equalizer, and no matter who you are, you're going to get that same rigorous opportunity," she says.

The senior project is an immersive academic endeavor and students are certain to acquire vast comprehension of their topics. However, it's often the immeasurable gain from the process that leaves a lasting mark—it's not necessarily what the students learn about their subjects, but what they learn about themselves. But whether students derive enduring benefits from the process, the content, or both, the senior project has proven time and again that it has the power to transform lives.

Defining Moments

Stephanie Rosenberg '10 (environmental studies major, biology minor) entered the environmental studies program intending to pursue environmental law, but found herself enjoying classes with labs far more than those about regulations. She hoped to structure her senior project around a water study, and Ryan Taylor, an associate professor of environmental studies, suggested studying the morphology of Blind Brook, the stream that runs through campus. Rosenberg spent an entire year in waders, measuring and documenting the shape and characteristics of the stream's channel from top to bottom. Taylor recalls teaching her the methodology, and how she then ran with it. "She was bush-hogging out there sometimes with a machete just to get through the briars in the fall; then she would convince friends to go out in the field with her in the snow and ice during winter break when no one else was here," he says.

After graduation, Rosenberg took an office job in environmental health and safety. Unsatisfied, she considered her next move. "I remembered the senior project and I felt, well, honestly, that's what I want to do," she says. She earned her master's degree in hydrogeology



The annual spring tradition when LAS students form the Senior Project Procession en route to the Library to hand in their senior projects.

gy at Stony Brook and is now happily working in the field as a hydrogeologist at Walden Associates, an environmental engineering company.

According to Peter Schwab, a professor of political science, **Madeleine Wykstra '12** (political science major, economics minor) "wrote probably the best senior project in political science, ever." The disillusionment Wykstra felt after watching a PBS *Frontline* documentary on the Rwandan genocide lingered with her for years. Her interest in "the idealist undertones that helped form the U.N. at the end of World War II" resulted in her thesis, *Seized of the Matter: An Examination of U.N. Intervention Capacity in Post-Cold War Intrastate Conflict*. Quite unexpectedly, the research transformed her outlook. "I initially believed in the capacity of these international institutions, but what I found, particularly with Darfur and revealed in the decisions of the Security Council, was disheartening," she says. Wykstra is working full-time at a Manhattan law firm while she's finishing her master's degree in international relations at NYU.

She's now applying to law schools, set on earning a JD as well. "I just can't get enough," she says, laughing, and credits the senior project's lasting impact. "It made me realize that I wouldn't be satisfied only writing about these subjects. It definitely drove my interest in law, and to find a way to participate in changing what I was writing about."

Empowered

The process of synthesizing diverse approaches to a single, unique idea through long-term engagement produces a skill set that lasts a lifetime and often leaves alumni feeling empowered.

Gloria Bennett '10 (philosophy major, women's studies minor) discovered philosophy at Purchase after she missed the deadline to audition for the conservatories. She took one course and was hooked. But discontented with how emotion was unfairly gendered and characterized as a disadvantage in philosophical schools of thought, she sought to argue that emotion played a critical

Gloria Bennett '10



role in ethics in her senior project, *Feeling Good: The Role of Emotions in Ethical Life*.

She believes the lasting impact from her senior project stems from both the knowledge acquired from the content and the process, which sharpened her critical-thinking skills, her writing skills, and her self-confidence. "Whatever field you go into in the future, you have this huge thing that you accomplished on your own that is a standing testament to your knowledge and your skills and your abilities," she says.

Bennett is a program officer at the Institute of International Education, currently in the Foreign Fulbright Program and previously in the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program. She found that by considering the ideas from her research, in particular that compassion and

empathy should act as a compass for moral action, when she was given the opportunity to develop program policies with the Brazilian government and nongovernmental agencies, her contributions were thorough and thoughtful. "Most people don't think about emotions or empathy specifically when they're writing legal policy. So to think about compassion and the way the policies will affect the international community impacted by our programs has given me a unique and important perspective for me to bring to the table," she explains. She's applied to graduate programs in international relations and conflict resolution in the U.K., and reveals that the personal statement she's prepared is all about her senior project.

Tom DePaola '10 (literature and philosophy) was working at Starbucks when one of his regulars offered him a part-time position as external evaluator for a grant program at the Criminal Justice Academy at Bronx Community College (BCC). The final report he submitted showcased his research and writing skills, and prompted an offer for full-time work as an activity coordinator. He's turned the position into much more, however.

Tom DePaola '10



His senior project was an interdisciplinary investigation of the Great Recession's housing collapse and the value placed on home ownership. "It's not until you have a serious interdisciplinary project that you realize how it's all connected," he says. He also had experience working in a youth mentoring program for AmeriCorps after graduation.



Roberto DeOliveira

tion. BCC happens to be the poorest-performing campus of the City University of New York (CUNY), and it sits in the poorest neighborhood in the Bronx. DePaola applied his collective knowledge to take a more systemic view of the issues the students face. "I was thrust into all of these issues about urban inequality that I had started to consider and explore in my senior-project research and in working with the AmeriCorps program," he says. He built an undergraduate internship program from scratch, helped overhaul the freshman programming, and has published academic papers on his outcomes. "It was all of the research that I'd done in these far-flung disciplines that helped me view these new issues in ways that allowed me to make an inroad," he adds.

DePaola hopes someday to conduct research that will influence higher-education policy. He's been admitted to the Urban Education Policy PhD program at the University of Southern California. "They don't even want me to do a master's first, specifically citing—and I'm not kidding—the fact that I had such a rigorous undergraduate

experience researching and writing a thesis as proof that I can handle it," he says.

The (Re)search Continues

For some, the senior-project experience ignites an undeniable passion for scientific study and the possibility of answering big questions. For **Krystal Perkins '02** (psychology) and **David Frost '03** (psychology major, anthropology minor), their senior projects formed the basis for research interests that continue today. Perkins arrived at Purchase curious about the human potential for good and bad and the cultural definitions of immorality, and planned on a career in clinical psychology. She admits she wasn't a great student at first, but that changed when she discovered social psychology in her junior year, in particular Gordon Allport's book *The Nature of Prejudice*, a seminal work in the field. For her senior project, she developed an intervention designed to reduce prejudice. "The senior project really impressed upon me that psychology was a way to answer my burning questions about the human experience," she says.

Krystal Perkins '02



David Frost '03



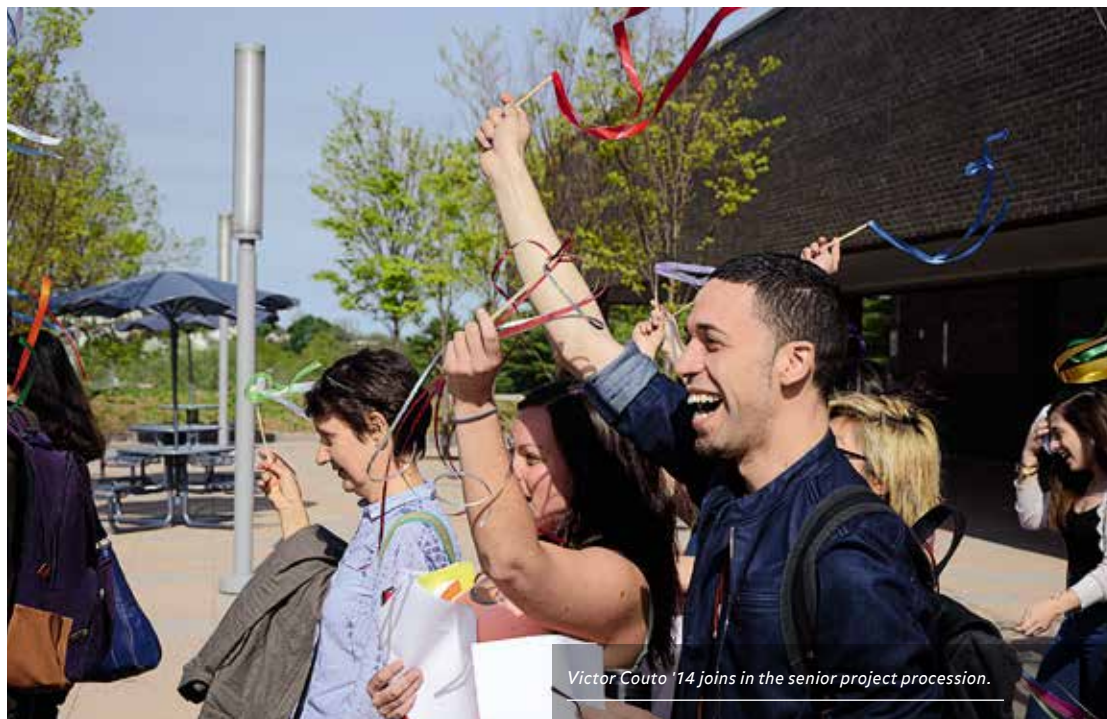
"It stirred a passion to ponder and create scholarship that serves some larger purpose." She remembers the point of no return, midway through her senior year. "There was no dispute. What I did at Purchase, I could not stop doing—I didn't want to stop doing." Perkins earned her PhD at CUNY and is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of West Georgia, studying marginalized groups and communities. She plans to return to her roots, however; she's just accepted a position as visiting assistant professor at Purchase for fall 2015.

Frost, an assistant professor of population and family health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, had an equally definitive experience conducting his senior-project research. He surveyed lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals to discover connections between the discrimination and prejudice they experienced in high school and the impact those experiences had on academic outcomes. To obtain a large, geographically diverse sample, he used Internet survey methods, an emerging technology at the time, to include people beyond the New York metropolitan area. His senior project was essentially the first study in a longer line of research he continues today, which focuses on the physical- and mental-health outcomes of prejudice and discrimination experienced by LGBT individuals and couples. Frost is a highly accomplished researcher currently working on three large-scale projects funded by the National Institutes of Health with teams of collaborators at several universities—some of whom are senior investigators he once cited as sources in his senior project.

Personal Achievement

Rebecca (Hedjuk) Morse '93 (art history) cites a class with Paul Kaplan, a professor of art history, that piqued her interest in the way communities were represented in art by other communities. For her senior project, she spent a year preparing an exhibition that was mounted at the Neuberger Museum of Art. *Dismantling Stereotypes: Images of Native Americans Past and Present* explored the way in which Native American commu-

Rebecca (Hedjuk) Morse '93



Victor Couto '14 joins in the senior project procession.



Relieved and triumphant LAS students hand in their senior projects.

Photos by Roberto DeOliveira

nities were represented by outsiders and how they pictured themselves.

With no curatorial experience, she worked with every museum department to research, plan, and execute the exhibition, including visiting artists' studios to select work, securing the loan of the artworks, producing a brochure, planning educational programs, and hanging the show. "It was an amazing expe-

rience. The Neuberger is a teaching institution and everybody was really interested and helpful," she recalls.

The experience not only showed her all the ways available to participate in museum work, it left her feeling confident and proud. "It was very professional. I attended meetings at 9 o'clock in the morning and I remember how everyone was impressed," she says, laughing. "That was

really meaningful and stuck with me. It gave me a lot of confidence that I could be a professional even at that young age."

Morse has been an associate curator in the photography department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art since January 2013, prior to which she spent years moving up through the curatorial ranks to become an associate curator at Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art.

Senior Projects in the School of the Arts and School of Liberal Studies

The senior project experience is not limited to students in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Seniors in the School of the Arts also spend their final year immersed in a creative project of their own choosing, the requirements of which vary by discipline. Whether it's producing and engineering a 60-minute CD in the Conservatory of Music's Studio Composition and Production programs, choreographing and performing in dance recitals in the Conservatory of Dance, writing a full-length play for stage or screen for the Conservatory of Theatre Arts, or creating a new body of work in Art+Design, all seniors at Purchase College participate in the creation of in-depth, original work intended as a synthesis of the education and experience of their first three years. Liberal Studies students complete a 4-credit senior capstone course.

Overcoming doubt is a natural part of the senior-project process. "Students come up against anxieties that they've had for a long time—writing anxieties, issues of time management, perfectionism. And this project forces them to confront themselves," says Aviva Taubenfeld, an associate professor of literature and writing and the faculty

coordinator of college writing, who prepares juniors and seniors in seminars to tackle the senior project. "Hopefully they get through that and realize that they are capable of doing something independent, entirely on their own, and feel great about it. To have them walk out and feel 'I did something and it's mine,' that's really the goal."

Kathleen McCormick, a professor of literature and pedagogy, explains that sometimes doing a senior project seems an unreachable goal to students, but blames the constraints of a classroom setting for some students' self-image. Once they find themselves in control, their motivation and achievement flourish. "When suddenly faced with the openness of the senior project, some of these students come alive like a fireworks display! They discover that they weren't 'top' students not because of a lack of ability, but because somehow they couldn't commit to what they saw as 'the teacher's agenda,'" she explains.

Alex Moskowitz '11 (literature) describes himself as having been, before his senior project, "an exceedingly ordinary student." He was empowered by the freedom to write on any topic he chose; it allowed him to connect his academic interests with his personal ones. The process unleashed his critical-thinking skills and the result

Alex Moskowitz '11



was a 96-page thesis that explored the poetry of Allen Ginsberg and the historical and cultural context in which it was written. His project questioned negative criticism of Ginsberg's work by challenging the prevailing stream of literary scholarship of the day: New Criticism. "Critical thinking is something that extends beyond any one specific essay or class, and is important for all aspects of life. Gaining this ability to dissect various texts, contexts, and situations through writing the senior project is what has guided my approach to everything since then," he says. Moskowitz completed his MA in English at Boston College last fall. He's living in Prague working as both



All senior projects remain on file in the Library in perpetuity. The closed stacks in the basement hold reports from the early 1970s through 2009. Since then they've been submitted digitally.

a copywriter and an English teacher and plans to return to the U.S. next fall to pursue his PhD in English. He hopes someday to study and teach literature.

The One-on-One

For many faculty members, advising four to six senior-project students every year is no small feat, yet it's precisely why they love teaching at Purchase. The promise of working one-on-one with a student for the long term, as in the graduate-school model, helps Purchase attract and keep great faculty. Alumni and faculty agree: the relationship that develops when people are engaged in a meaningful endeavor over time is highly fulfilling.

Mark Jonas '03 (biology major, chemistry minor) returned to Purchase to teach biology in 2013. His senior project steered him to Hawaii for a month to study the adaptation methods of the picture-wing *Drosophila* with his advisor, Elyse Craddock, a professor emerita of biology, whose passion he found infectious. Having evolved from a self-described shy and bookish undergraduate to a senior excited about research, he calls his return to Purchase as an assistant professor a bit "surreal," as his former instructors are now his colleagues.

For faculty members who seek long-term undergraduate mentorship opportunities, Purchase is a rare gem. As chair of natural and social sciences, Bastone relies on the senior project, with its inherent mentoring component, as a recruitment tool. "When we are hiring faculty, they love that this is part of our program," she says. McCormick concurs: "Purchase faculty pride themselves on developing close relationships with undergrads. Many of us are here because we *want* to work with undergrads." Kessler believes that the one-year senior-project relationship

found at Purchase is even healthier than a typical graduate-school relationship, which can last for two or three years.

Professors in the sciences find that Purchase offers a niche opportunity—the ability to run a research lab *and* teach in the classroom. At most schools, it's one or the other.

"Colleagues of mine who are at similar institutions don't get to run a research lab. I get to run three. To get that lab at a research university, all of the teaching goes away and you publish or perish. We get the best of both worlds—we get to see the lights turn on in students as we teach in the classroom, and we get to manage a research lab," says Taylor.

As Iconic as the Henry Moore

The senior-project experience has a domino effect on the entire LAS curriculum. The extensive preparation begins freshman year and becomes the scaffolding that supports the demands of the senior project. "We have to teach somewhat differently in every year because the senior project is coming. And there is no question that our students get a stronger and certainly more special undergrad experience because of the presence of the senior project," says McCormick.

An added value, says Taylor, is how the research conducted by his advisees permeates his curriculum. "I know my classes would be much duller, much

THE LOST ART OF KUWAITI PEARL DIVING

Ghazi Al-Mulaifi '08 (philosophy major, music minor) was born in Kuwait. His grandfather was captain of a Kuwaiti pearl-diving ship and a master pearl diver. For his senior project, he explored the subject of Kuwaiti pearl diving from a philosophical and aesthetic perspective. "I became interested in the musical traditions that surround pearl diving, and view my work as a tribute to him and all Kuwaiti pearl divers of the past. Since pearl diving ceased to be a viable livelihood starting in the 1950s, my aim is to preserve Kuwaiti pearl-diving music and tradition," he explains.

He credits his advisors Casey Haskins and Jennifer Uleman, associate professors of philosophy, for pushing him to write in ways he didn't know he was capable of, and also thanks professors Marjorie Miller, Morris Kaplan, and Frank Farrell for their support. He used his senior project as a writing sample in his application to NYU's Ethnomusicology program, where he's working on his dissertation, a continuation of the work he started at Purchase. "If it were not for my senior project, I do not believe I would have been accepted to NYU," he says. He hopes to teach someday, as well as continue his current work composing music for films, performing contemporary inter-

pretations of Kuwaiti pearl-diving music, and mentoring young musicians in Kuwait.



Ghazi Al-Mulaifi on a pearl-diving ship in Kuwait.

more boring, if I didn't have the energy of senior projects pumping into them."

Oddly enough, most students seem unaware of the senior project and its potential impact until it's upon them. "I don't think many students pick Purchase College because of the senior project, and it's the most valuable thing they're

going to get out of their entire Purchase experience," says Taylor.

"I think it's really *the* Purchase experience," says Taubenfeld. The senior project is woven tightly into the Purchase fabric and the college's commitment to it is strong. "Like the Henry Moore, it's always going to be here," promises Kessler.

NSS Student Research Symposium

In the School of Natural and Social Sciences (NSS), the senior-project experience is capped by the opportunity for students to present their thesis research at the NSS Symposium, one of the college's longest-running traditions, now in its 34th year. Through oral presentations and posters, more than 70 students showcase their findings to an audience of faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, family and community members, and funders.

Some students may be anxious about presenting their research in front of an audience—until, of course, they realize they're the experts in the room. Associate Professor Linda Bastone explains that as an expert in her field, she provides a healthy debate as part of the process, but it's the students who've delved deeply into their subjects. "The senior project is highly legitimizing. They become the authority and sometimes they're more informed than you are," she says.

■ TOM CROSS '93 WINS BIG



Tom Cross '93 (visual arts) received a 2015 Academy Award in the Best Film Editing category for his critically acclaimed work on the film *Whiplash*.

Director Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash* has been receiving enthusiastic reviews since it first appeared at Sundance in 2012 as a short, due in large part to the film's masterfully kinetic editing. A grateful Cross thanked Chazelle in his acceptance

speech. "I want to thank the person who never once threw a chair at my head, but always pushed to make it better: Damien Chazelle—your art changed my life."

Cross also won Best Editing Awards for his work on *Whiplash* from BAFTA (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts) and the Independent Spirit Awards.

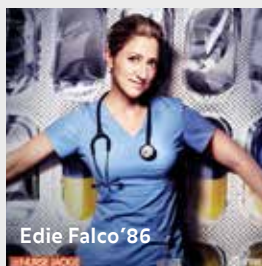
■ DAN ROMER '04 WINS GRAMMY



"Say Something," the megahit song by A Great Big World featuring Christina Aguilera, won a 2015 Grammy in the Best Pop Duo/Group Performance category. The song was produced by Dan Romer '04 (music). Romer also produced and mixed the 2013 album *Is There Anybody Out There?* which featured the recording.

■ EDIE FALCO '86 BREAKS RECORD WITH SAG NOMINATION

Edie Falco '86 (acting) made history in December 2014. When she received the Screen Actors Guild nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series for her starring role on Showtime's *Nurse Jackie*, she broke the SAG record for most nominations. With 21 Actor nominations (13 for individual performances, 8 for ensemble performances), she is the most nominated actor in SAG history.



Falco also received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in a TV Series, Musical, or Comedy. It was her 15th Golden Globe nomination.

■ STUART SINGER '07 WINS BESSIE AWARD

The New York Dance and Performance Awards (known as the Bessies) are New York City's premier dance awards and honor outstanding creative work in the field. Conservatory of Dance alumnus Stuart Singer '07 was among the 13 winners announced in October 2014 at the legendary Apollo Theater. He received an Outstanding Performance Award for his work in John Jasperse's "Within Between" at New York Live Arts.

Based in Brooklyn, Singer is also a lecturer in modern dance at Purchase. He has danced in the companies of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane (2004–08), Doug Varone (2009), Wally Cardona (2008–10), and Lucinda Childs (2011–present), and recently performed in the world tour of the revival of the Philip Glass/Robert Wilson opera *Einstein on the Beach*.

■ TRACY FITZPATRICK APPOINTED MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Tracy Fitzpatrick was appointed the eighth director of the Neuberger Museum of Art in November 2014. A widely respected curator, teacher, and author, Fitzpatrick had been the museum's chief curator since 2012 and has taught art history at Purchase for more than 10 years.



"As a scholar, art historian, and art museum professional, Dr. Fitzpatrick has a strong commitment to new scholarship, and to maintaining the museum as an unparalleled educational resource for students, scholars, and members of the public," President Schwarz notes. "With her uncommon wisdom and boundless

energy, she will strengthen and advance the museum's reputation as a cultural and intellectual magnet for modern and contemporary art, and build upon a strong tradition of distinguished leadership. We couldn't be more delighted."

"I am deeply honored and tremendously excited to have been selected to be the next director of the Neuberger Museum of Art," says Fitzpatrick. "I am looking forward to continuing to serve the Neuberger in this new capacity. It is an institution with an exemplary track record of innovative exhibitions and generous support, and I intend to honor and build on this legacy."

■ ACTING ALUMNI MAKE BROADWAY DEBUTS

Acting program alumni Micah Stock '11 and Keren Dukes '10 both landed roles last fall in widely recognized and critically lauded plays.

Dukes is a member of the ensemble of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and Stock is performing alongside the likes of Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, and Stockard Channing in Terrence McNally's *It's Only a Play*.



"Congratulations to both Micah and Keren. I'm thrilled to see two of our most gifted recent graduates performing in such high-profile Broadway productions," says Greg Taylor, director of the Conservatory of Theatre Arts.

DANCE MAGAZINE FEATURES TWO ALUMNI

The December 2014 issue of *Dance* magazine features not one, but two graduates of the Conservatory of Dance. Lindsey Jones '12 was featured in the column "On the Rise" and is a company member with Dance Heginbotham. At 5' 9", Jones is described in the piece as "a study in contrasts." Choreographer and performer John Heginbotham says, "It's fascinating to see this long, tall figure moving really, really quickly. She can work big and small—not everyone can do that."



Samantha Figgins '11 is the subject of "Ten Minutes with Samantha Figgins," which covers her daring move from Complexions Contemporary Ballet to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as she discusses setting her pointe shoes aside. "I'm at the beginning of a huge growth spurt," she says.



Samantha Figgins '11

■ GO PANTHERS



Elizabeth Osowiecki

Over the winter, Purchase athletics picked up where it left off following an exciting fall season that included a championship title and NCAA Tournament appearance for the men's soccer team program. The men's basketball team advanced to the postseason for a seventh straight year. Women's hoops was led by junior center Elizabeth Osowiecki, who was named to the All-Skyline 1st Team at the conclusion of the winter campaign.

Men's and women's swim also enjoyed a memorable winter. Panther sophomore Sam Jaffe, a year after being named conference rookie of the year, was named the league swimmer of the year. He led Purchase to a third-place finish at championships—the young program's best-ever finish in men's swim. The women also performed well under longtime Purchase coach Peter Nestel.

Men's volleyball was all action, with victories in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015—led by standout returner Kevin Carges, who is fresh off a pair of league weekly honors.



Kevin Carges

The winter season featured several Skyline Conference weekly honorees from men's and women's basketball and men's and women's swim, with the Purchase Sports Information Department selecting a pair of student-athletes for its honor roll weekly. They are posted on the website www.purchasecollegeathletics.com.

Athletics also hired Brittany Balfour as the program's new head women's volleyball coach and Susan Kaminsky as the department's new head women's tennis coach. Both were previously assistants who have moved up and become head coaches within our program.

Former men's basketball standout and last season's tournament most outstanding player David Haughton signed a professional contract overseas. Haughton played for the Rakvere Tarvas squad in Estonia. Estonia is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. He excelled and was named player of the week during the postseason.

Achievements were also abounding for our student-athletes in the classroom, with 38 from the fall season garnering All-Skyline Academic Honor Roll honors and swimmer Anna Krol, who boasts a near 4.0 GPA, being named one of three campuswide to receive the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.



Brittany Balfour

■ PURCHASE RECEIVES \$765,000 FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) recently awarded Purchase College a \$765,000 grant to implement green infrastructure and significantly improve storm-water management. Created by Governor Andrew Cuomo, the REDC has awarded more than \$2 billion for economic growth and job creation during the past three years.



Two major green infrastructure practices—bioretention swales and porous pavers—will be used to manage storm-water runoff from formerly impervious surfaces (parking lots and pedestrian paths). The bioswales will divert water away from the

hardscape, while the porous pavement will allow it to permeate the surface instead of going down the storm drains.

The project also has an important educational component. Faculty members from the environmental studies program will design comparative studies on water quality within and outside the project area, with data to be collected over a three-year period. Preliminary results of the studies will be included in the college's Storm Water Master Plan and reported annually to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Tom Kelly, a senior energy manager, concludes, "This project has the potential to inspire the next generation of green infrastructure stewards, who will advocate for new environmentally resilient systems in many settings."

■ PURCHASE NAMED A 2015 BEST VALUE COLLEGE BY KIPLINGER'S PERSONAL FINANCE

Purchase College has been named to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance's* "100 Best Values in Public Colleges" for 2015. The ranking cites four-year schools that combine outstanding academics with affordable cost. Thanks to its high four-year graduation rate, low average student debt at graduation, abundant financial aid, low sticker price, and overall great value, Purchase ranks number 83 on the public colleges best value list, up from 89 in last year's top 100.

■ RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY CELEBRATES RENOVATED SCIENCE LABS

On Nov. 6, 2014, President Thomas J. Schwarz cut the ceremonial ribbon to reveal the major overhaul of two spaces in the Natural Sciences Building—the Marine Ecology Research Lab and the Watershed Science Research Lab. Provost Barry Pearson secured the \$250,000 needed for the renovations following his pitch to the college cabinet.



(L to R) President Schwarz with Environmental Studies faculty members Susan Letcher, George Kraemer, and Ryan Taylor.

A crowd of 50 students, faculty, alumni, and VIPs toured the labs, which had been freshly painted in hues of cool blue with cherry-finished cabinets and gleaming stainless-steel fixtures; the labs are used by the 75 majors in the environmental studies program.

Much of the equipment in the labs is designed to go into the field, a unique feature, explains Ryan Taylor, associate professor of environmental studies. "The environment is not in here. The students collect data in the environment and bring it back here."

George Kraemer, professor of environmental studies and biology, believes the renovation of his Marine Ecology Research Lab will raise the program's visibility, help recruit students, and allow them to do better science.

Two students in the environmental studies program, Lexie Stodden '16 and Lara Pratt '16, spent many hours boxing up the equipment to empty the labs in preparation for the overhaul, then helped restore them once work was complete.

Suzanne Kessler, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, thanked the cabinet members for their wisdom in allocating the money for the renovation. Thrilled with the results, she adds, "Now we've just got about 200 more rooms to go."

■ PURCHASE COLLEGE INVITED TO BEIJING DANCE ACADEMY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Purchase College proudly participated in the 60th anniversary celebration of the Beijing Dance Academy (BDA), held Oct. 10–16, 2014. Twenty schools from around the world were invited to the event; Purchase was one of only two schools from the U.S.

Kevin Wynn, associate professor in the Conservatory of Dance, was invited to choreograph a new work as the opening dance piece at the anniversary gala. It was performed by five alumni from the dance department: Rena Butler '11, Hannah Button '13, Evelyn Chen '14, Cody Hayman '14, and Robert Lewis '13. Wynn also taught a week of master classes for Chinese dance educators, accompanied by Dave Lewitt, a drummer in the Conservatory of Dance. Lewitt helped demonstrate the value of live accompaniment in dance instruction.



Dancers with dignitaries from the Beijing Dance Company.

Ravi Rajan, dean of the School of the Arts, represented Purchase College and delivered a lecture on praxis and 21st-century arts training.

Carol Walker, dean emeritus of the School of the Arts, coordinated the delegation from Purchase, delivered a lecture at the celebration, and was chosen as an invited V.I.P. by the BDA. In her tenure at Purchase, Walker was instrumental in expanding international exchange opportunities for Purchase dancers with students from top dance programs at universities and academies in Asia, Australia, England, and the Netherlands.

■ DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES FEATURES ACCLAIMED AUTHORS

On March 19, the Durst Distinguished Lecture Series featured Colson Whitehead, the award-winning author of several books, including *John Henry Days*, *Zone One*, and *Sag Harbor*, and most recently, *The Noble Hustler: Poker, Beef Jerky, and Death* (2014). Whitehead is a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Whiting Writers' Award, among other honors.

Ben Lerner, a prizewinning poet, novelist, essayist, and teacher, visited campus on Feb. 26 and spoke about his most recent novel, *10:04*. He has published three collections of poetry and two novels, all to great acclaim. His second book of poetry, *Angle of Yaw*, was a finalist for the National Book Award; *Leaving the Atocha Station*, his first novel, won the Believer Book Award.

Last November, Russian-born award-winning journalist, author, and activist Masha Gessen spoke on campus. Noted for her opposition to Russian president Vladimir Putin, she has written extensively on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. She is the author of several books, most recently *Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot* (2014), and contributes to numerous newspapers and magazines.

Junot Díaz, recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and a National Book Award for Fiction, spoke on campus last October. He is the author of two collections of stories, *This Is How You Lose Her* (2012) and *Drown* (1996), and the best-selling novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007).

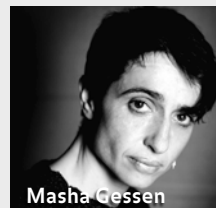
The Durst Distinguished Lecture Series is supported by the Royal and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature Endowment. Shirley Durst was a longtime benefactor of Purchase College.



Colson Whitehead



Ben Lerner



Masha Gessen



Junot Díaz



■ GREAT FILMS, GREAT DIRECTORS SERIES CONTINUES WITH CHARLES BURNETT

Charles Burnett, the 70-year-old African American film director famous for not being famous, participated in a conversation with Brandon Harris, a visiting assistant professor of film, following the screening of his 1994 film *The Glass Shield*. A cult hero in certain segments of the American filmmaking world, Burnett is the director of 10 features for both film and television as well as several documentaries, and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant."

The program was part of the School of Film and Media Studies' *Great Films, Great Directors* series, presented with special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

■ MOZART IN THE JUNGLE FILMED AT PAC

Fans of *Mozart in the Jungle*, the hit comedy series that streams on Amazon, might recognize Purchase in the background. The interior concert scenes were filmed on location at the Performing Arts Center.



Gael García Bernal as Rodrigo in *Mozart in the Jungle* with Malcolm McDowell and Bernadette Peters. (Nicole Rivelli/Amazon Studios)

■ PURCHASE DANCE RAISES BAR WITH NEW WORKS I AND II

The Purchase Dance Company performed last fall in the Conservatory of Dance's most ambitious program to date. *New Works I* featured modern contemporary works by Adam Barruch, recipient of a 2014 Lotos Foundation Prize in the Arts and Sciences; Gabrielle Lamb, winner of a 2014 Princess Grace Award for Choreography; Shannon Gillen, named in a 2013 *Brooklyn* magazine article as one of the city's top 20 artists; and MADboots dance co./ Jonathan Campbell and Austin Diaz, featured in *Dance* magazine's "Vital Signs"; it also presented a ballet by Taryn Kaschock Russell, a current Purchase College faculty member and former director of Hubbard Street 2.



The second program, *New Works II*, premiered modern contemporary works by Sarah Mettin '11, recipient of an Outstanding Choreographer Award from Youth America Grand Prix; Kimberly Bartosik, a Bessie Award winner and former member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company; Jonathan Riedel '01, a former member of the José Limón Dance Company; and Purchase dance faculty member Sue Bernhard '77, who is also a former member of the José Limón Dance Company.

■ JANDON BUSINESS OF THE ARTS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

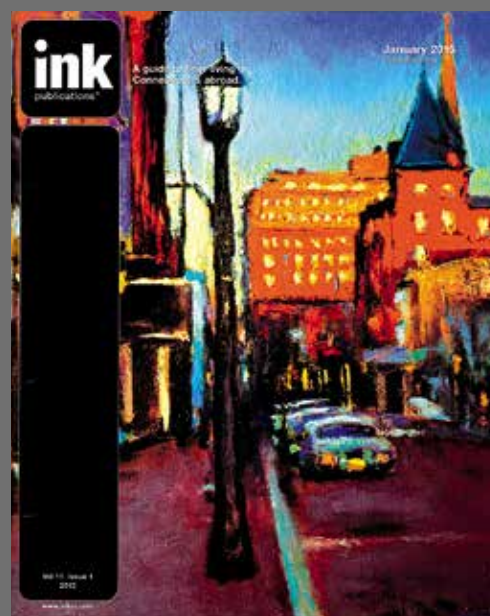
The School of the Arts welcomed Ella Baff, executive and artistic director of Jacob's Pillow, as the speaker for the 2015 Jandon Business of the Arts Distinguished Lecture in April at the Performing Arts Center.

Established in 2012 through a generous gift from the Cecil family to mark the occasion of Donald Cecil's 85th birthday, the lecture series helps support the arts management program at Purchase College. This endowed lecture reflects Cecil's lifelong commitment to excellence in education, leadership in business, and passion for the arts. It is presented annually, along with the Jandon Business of the Arts Student Achievement Award, which is given to a student in the arts management BA program.

The theme of Baff's lecture, "Learning on the Job: Case Studies in Presenting the Arts," strongly correlates with her professional career. She has served as program director at Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, and project director of national outreach for an arts series on WNET public television in New York. Under her leadership, Jacob's Pillow, an international dance festival, professional school, and dance archive located in western Massachusetts, was designated a National Historic Landmark, and in 2011, was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama at the White House.

Steven Brown '15 received the Jandon Business of the Arts Student Achievement Award.

The work of Mark Patnode '78 is featured on the cover of the January 2015 issue of *Ink Publications—A Guide to Finer Living in Connecticut and Abroad*. The magazine features more of his paintings and a story about Mark and his life and career.



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

PURCHASE-MADE MUSIC:

Legendary. Innovative. *Unstoppable.*

By David McKay Wilson

Known internationally for the strength and diversity of its program offerings, the essential mission of the Conservatory of Music has remained the same since it was established in 1973: to offer world-class collegiate music study taught by professional musicians connected to the New York metropolitan region's vibrant scene.



Singer-songwriter Gabriel Garzon-Montano '13 and drummer David Frazier '12

Just back from a two-month European tour on which he opened for rock icon Lenny Kravitz in venues from Moscow to Paris, singer-songwriter Gabriel Garzon-Montano '13 reflects on the plight of the opening act in huge arenas.

"You can really feel the audience—for better or worse," he says. "You are the buffer, warming them up from zero. When it was negative, it was very negative. But when it was positive, it was very positive. It took my performance level to the next phase."

His performances on the Lenny Kravitz Strut World Tour provided valuable experience for the young musician, who, like hundreds of graduates before him, was launched into the music industry with a solid foundation laid down during his studies at Purchase College.

Established in 1973, the music division of the School of the Arts, which evolved into the Conservatory of Music, has broadened its scope since its early days, when the classical-music faculty focused on chamber music and music theory for undergraduates hungry for professional-level instruction at a public university.

When the music division opened, the Purchase campus was just taking shape. The concert halls were still under construction, and some classes took place in the Neuberger Museum of Art. Among those in the first graduating class was Jonathan Lipton '76, who, since 1987, has played fourth horn in the London Symphony

Orchestra (LSO). He recalls that Professors Anthony Newman and Robert Levin opened doors for him in the classical-music scene.

Today Lipton travels the world with the LSO and on private teaching assignments. When the symphony comes annually to New York City, he journeys north to Purchase to hold a master class with the conservatory's horn students.

"It's lovely to be in touch with the roots," he says. "I like to teach, and I like to give back."

Classical music remained the focus of music studies at Purchase until the mid-1980s, when pilot programs in opera and music composition were launched. Then came the establishment of jazz in 1993, and studio composition and studio production in 1997.

The conservatory welcomes a new cohort of about 130 students a year—85 undergraduates and 45 graduate students. The essential mission has remained: to offer world-class collegiate music study taught by professional musicians connected to the New York metropolitan region's vibrant scene.

It's a program that readies musicians for the shifting landscapes of today's music marketplace.

"When we prepare for a production, I tell students that we aren't here to do a student performance," says Jacque Trussel, head of voice and opera studies. "This is a professional training program, and when you walk on stage, you perform as though you are a professional."

Trussel was one of a number of new faculty members hired under the leadership of Karl Kramer, who led the conservatory from 1997 to 2002. Kramer's recruitment efforts also included wooing renowned jazz artists and educators Todd Coolman and John Faddis, and Hugh Murphy, the principal conductor for voice and opera—all of whom are still on the faculty.

"It was an exciting time," recalls Kramer, who now serves as dean of the Sydney Conservatorium in Sydney, Australia. "We had a hard-working faculty, a student body as talented as it gets, and support



Jonathan Lipton

all the way up the food chain to make it possible. It took such teamwork.”

Professor Laura Kaminsky, who led the conservatory from 2004 to 2008, says she moved to the program to become less Eurocentric and more collaborative. During her tenure, Purchase musicians and dancers performed together in association with the reinstallation of the African collection at the college’s Neuberger Museum of Art.



Laura Kaminsky

Rebecca Allan

THRIVING IN TODAY’S MUSIC WORLD

“We are known nationally and internationally for the strength and diversity of our offerings in the conservatory—including jazz, opera, chamber music, studio composition, and studio production—rather than for a singular focus on orchestral training,” says Ravi Rajan, dean of the School of the Arts. “This is remarkable given the short period of time all these programs have been in place at the college.”

Music alumni are thriving in today’s music world. Singer Regina Spektor ’06 has drawn enthusiastic audiences around the world. Jazz singer Cyrille Aimée ’08 has expanded her repertoire to include acting in this year’s off-Broadway production of *Café Society* as she finds new ways to support her singing career. Dan Romer ’04, who has produced albums for Christina Aguilera and Jenny Owen Youngs ’04, also wrote the score for the 2013 Oscar-nominated film *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.



Cyrille Aimée

The music world has embraced Purchase singers and musicians. Brian Jagde ’06 lit up the opera world in 2014 and 2015 with major roles at the Metropolitan Opera, as well as operas in San Francisco, Chicago, Germany, and Poland.

Mitski Miyawaki ’13, known professionally as Mitski, was touted as one of “10 New Artists You Need to Know” in the February 2015 issue of *Rolling Stone*. Her first two albums were recorded while she was a Purchase student.



Mitski Miyawaki

“Mitski’s recent *Bury Me at Make-Out Creek* showcases the singer’s ability to turn delicate indie-folk into care-free heavy rock at a moment’s notice,” wrote *Rolling Stone*. “Her voice is both confident and sad, and her lyrics are personal and poetic.”



Elijah Wolf-Christensen

Majoring in studio composition, Elijah Wolf-Christensen ’15 (professionally known as Elijah Wolf) won a licensing agreement for a Subaru commercial two years ago. He recently had a song featured on the Showtime series *Shameless*, and will be touring this summer with the Gipsy Kings. During a break in the tour this summer, he is scheduled to record his next full-length album.

According to an article published in *Wired* magazine, two bands formed by Purchase alums were among the 10 bands at this year’s South by Southwest Festival that are “About to Blow Up”: Field Mouse, founded by Purchase alumni Rachel Browne ’09 and Andrew Futral ’04, and Vérité, aka Kelsey Byrne ’12.



Rachel Browne and Kelsey Byrne

“I was passionate about the fact that contemporary artists need to work more collaboratively with other disciplines,” says Kaminsky, a composer whose opera *As One* premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in September 2014. “We had to think more broadly about the role of artists in society and develop programming that expanded across the campus.”



Doug Munro

Professor Doug Munro, who launched the jazz studies program and directed it for a decade, says Purchase graduates are among those building a new music industry, as performers and recording artists figure out ways to make a living in the digital age.

“I see the success our students are having,” says Munro, a jazz guitarist. “They are redefining the music industry, which is crumbling, and are inventing what the next one will be. People always

want music and entertainment. There are some who need to express themselves and others who want to go out and hear it. It’s not all gloom and doom.”

Munro says the program’s graduates enter the music industry with the ability to work with musicians in many genres. Those skills are developed through relationships they build on campus and in the practice rooms in the music building.

“The jazz guys get pulled in by the pop guys to play at live gigs,” says Munro. “The film students need musicians to play. Some of the jazz guys play in classical combos (called chamber groups), and some of the classical musicians play in the jazz big band. Our school has a real sense of community. And our students are very accepting of each other—some can be nerdy, others super-aggressive or super-shy, but all are joined together by the love of music.”

Playing a crucial role in the emerging commercial models are the studio production professionals, who can produce live streaming events, command the console at recording studios, and deliver the sound that an audience wants—and is willing to spend money—to hear.

“There aren’t many commercial studios left, and most pop music involves recording in project studios, owned by artists or producers for the band,” says Peter Denenberg, who is the coordinator of the music and technology programs (including studio composition and production). “The people we are training may have to have their own project studios, sign their own bands, and become an indispensable part of the process.”



Purchase Symphony Orchestra performs with Chorus.

An organic drive for an interdisciplinary artistic format—within the music school, throughout the Purchase campus, and as students head out into the music world—is an essential ingredient of the conservatory's success.

In March, singer/songwriter Natalie Merchant performed with the Purchase Symphony Orchestra at the Performing Arts Center. The Purchase Opera gave four performances of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* in a production that used the talents of more than 200 School of the Arts students from the music and theatre arts departments; they not only sang the roles, but designed the set, lighting,

The Purchase Opera presents Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

costumes, and props, provided production management and technical direction, and served as the crew for the shows.

In February, Assistant Professor Jakub Ciupiński, head of the studio composition program, brought together students from several disciplines for the multimedia performance of *Electric* with the Purchase Symphony Orchestra. The production team included 36 string players, six studio production students, and five more students who used a process called projection mapping to cast images on the Purchase Performing Arts Center's walls and ceiling. The works performed were written by faculty members (including Ciupiński), as well as current and former students.

The projected images included symbols from old computers, prehistoric cave paintings, and videos of modern dancers from Ciupiński's collaboration with choreographer Jessica Lange. Different layers of music were synchronized with visual elements through software loaded into an onstage computer.



Purchase Symphony Orchestra.



Multimedia performance "Electric."

"When you perform with electronics, there's a different level of precision," says Ciupiński. "The students are absorbing a new way of playing together. And I'm happy how it all played out—the visuals, the electronics, and the orchestra. It was quite an experience."

Dean Rajan concurs: "Collaboration is key to the contemporary practice of today's artist, regardless of the medium. If you are a painter, musician, writer, choreographer, or set designer, chances are you will experience a need to collaborate with fellow artists to sustain your career after Purchase."

To this end, faculty members are developing new and exciting initiatives. Suzanne Farrin, the head of composition, is embarking on a collaborative project in which ensembles of student composers and musicians will work on new pieces to be played in a series at the Stone, John Zorn's experimental music performance space on New York's Lower East Side. Professor Farrin, along with Professor Ciupiński and Steven Lam, director of the School of Art+Design, are working to design new course offerings using sound and video with interactivity and programming environments such as MAX/MSP to create new work; these courses might eventually form the core of a new major program.

FINDING A NICHE

It took Garzon-Montano some time to find his niche at Purchase. He didn't plan to study at the conservatory when he matriculated in 2009. He'd followed his girlfriend to Purchase, carrying his acoustic guitar and fuzzy plans about his future. Their relationship fizzled, but he'd fallen in with the conservatory crowd. To his amazement, the conservatory offered a major in studio composition. It felt right for him.

Dressed in a three-piece suit, and brandishing letters of recommendation from rocker Lenny Kravitz and composer Philip Glass, he showed up for his audition with some tracks he'd recorded.

The faculty was not impressed. He didn't get in. So he continued in the Purchase liberal arts program, delving into the humanities, making his way.

He applied again the following year, with a new approach.

He presented no letters.

He didn't wear a suit.

He just brought his guitar, and played.

He was accepted and immersed himself in music notation and music theory. On campus, he founded the funk band Mokaad with drummer David Frazier '12 and bassist Spencer Murphy '10.

"My studies gave names to what I was thinking about," says Garzon-Montano, who still plays with Frazier. "They provided structure and access to great people who asked questions that were important to me. They challenged me."

Lightning can strike during a musician's conservatory study. That's what happened to jazz guitarist Vinny Raniolo '07, who found that the connections made at Purchase can be long-lasting. His teacher Doug Munro had introduced him to a band that needed a guitarist. The band's drummer knew jazz guitarist Frank Vignola, who was looking for a bass player.

"I'd been told if I wanted to get gigs, I needed to play a little bass, so I started playing bass and getting gigs," recalls Raniolo. "I kept networking, and I got an audition with Frank. He asked me to go on the road and help him finish up with a recording. We hit it off."

Before he agreed, Raniolo sought advice from Munro.

"I advise my students: If it's real, you should go for it and do it," says Munro. "But not every opportunity is a golden one. You have to weigh whether it's worth it to take a semester off. Is there a record deal? Is there a contract? In this case, I knew Frank Vignola, and he's working 300 dates a year."

Raniolo took the plunge. He took a leave from school, toured and recorded with Vignola for a year, then came back to Purchase to finish his degree.

After graduating, he and Vignola formed a duet, which has toured the world for the past five years.



Chloé Kastón

The Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra at Birdland in New York City.

"With two guitars, it's easy to travel," says Raniolo. "We play a lot of acoustic venues, so we bring two small amps and our guitars."

Like many conservatory alums, Raniolo has developed a teaching sideline as well. In 2015, he'll be teaching at a gypsy jazz camp in Crested Butte, CO, and at Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Camp in upstate New York.

"I just love explaining the music," says Raniolo. "I gravitated toward teachers who did that for me, so now I want to do that same thing, to inspire people to play. It starts with simple concepts, and having fun playing music with other people."

Connections to New York City's music world can provide crucial leads for gigs. Jazz pianist and singer Champion Fulton '06 landed the Tuesday night happy-hour spot at Birdland while at Purchase. It turned out to be a place where she met up with the city's top talent, and it helped her launch her recording and performance career.



Today she leads bands that play throughout the metro region, as well as in Europe and Israel.

"While at Purchase, I'd get down to the city often to play gigs and make contacts," she says. "But then I'd return to campus and immerse myself in my music studies. You can do that at Purchase."

Fulton, like many conservatory graduates, remains in close touch with the Purchase alumni network. In early March, she played at Mezzrow, the new jazz club opened in 2014 by Spike Wilner '07, who often books Purchase alumni to perform there and at his nearby Greenwich Village club, Smalls.

Jazz singer Aimée has really hit her stride. She sings often at Birdland and Smalls. In January she joined an all-star lineup on the 10-day Jazz Cruise, and returned in time for a two-night gig at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Hall. Her band's new drummer is Australian Rajiv Jayaweera '13, who came to Purchase in 2011 to study for his master's degree after emerging as a much sought-after drummer in his country.

Aimée says she's glad she found Jayaweera—another Purchase connection in the expanding conservatory network.

"I loved the environment there," she says. "Purchase is such a creative place, with such creative people."



Chloé Kastón

The Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra performs at Birdland in New York City.

WORKING IT LOCAL

Alex Hamburger, who majors in jazz studies, just finished her sophomore year at Purchase. She grew up in the DC area, where her dad is a full-time professional musician. Hamburger plays the flute and the baritone saxophone. Training under the direction of renowned jazz vocalist Alexis Cole, Hamburger is also working on her already amazing voice.

While she regularly does gigs in New York City as part of various duos and trios, Hamburger realized the value of having a steady gig, building audience, and developing unity with an ensemble. When she described her plan to her voice teacher, Cole suggested Hamburger look for a local venue.

The HD Jazz Quintet landed at Trattoria 632, a lively and highly rated Italian restaurant on Anderson Hill Road, within walking distance from the campus. The venue is often packed, drawing

patrons from all over Westchester and Fairfield counties. On Monday nights, throughout the fall and spring semesters, the ensemble sets up and plays two sets from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m.

"It's so great," says Hamburger. "There's always a crowd. A lot of Purchase faculty and students drop in, but also, tons of Trattoria patrons are there, and many have become Monday night regulars." For first-time patrons, a college student ensemble is a surprise. More of a surprise is the caliber of musicianship and professionalism. "I can't believe how good they are. They're like professionals. So confident and comfortable," says a frequent Trattoria customer.

Trattoria 632 bar's manager Dez says the collaboration has been a great success. "We're lucky. SUNY Purchase is right next door, and we are realizing a distinct advantage. I know they are col-

lege students," she says, "but they really impressed me with their poise and professionalism. They are super talented and engaging."

Why did Hamburger opt to come to Purchase? "I knew some kids from the jazz academy in DC who went to Purchase. I came to visit one weekend and fell in love. The cool thing is all the teachers here are working musicians. Teachers are so supportive. It's an environment that encourages you to figure things out, so you know how to work as a musician."

And "work" is just what Hamburger is all about. "I want to be able to make a living playing great music. My ideal future is supporting myself doing what I love in New York."



The HD Jazz Quintet (L-R): Andrew Latona '17, guitar; Mike Roninson '15, bass; Alex Hamburger '17, vocals and flute; Juan Sanchez '17, drums; Nicole Davis '17, trumpet.

SUPPORTING PURCHASE AND ITS MUSIC STUDENTS AND FACULTY



Emily and Eugene Grant, devoted supporters of higher education and renowned arts patrons, presented a \$5 million gift to Purchase College in December 2014, to establish three new funds that will support the Provost's Office for Faculty and the Conservatory of Music. With this latest gift, the Grants have cumulatively donated more than \$10 million to Purchase College.

The Grants, long-time residents of Mamaroneck, NY, have previously funded hundreds of deserving students at Purchase College through the Eugene and Emily Grant Merit Scholarship and the Eugene and Emily Grant Music Scholarship programs. Their most recent donation—the Grants' largest gift ever to the college, will offer incentive awards for faculty; cover production expenses for the Opera Program, such as royalties, costumes, and guest artists; and provide unrestricted funds for the Conservatory of Music's greatest needs.

"My husband and I believe in the positive impact of quality public higher education, and we are proud to continue our support of Purchase College," says Mrs. Grant, who joined the board of the Purchase College Foundation in 1969, serving as chair for 18 years. "Through our latest gift, including both endowed and nonendowed funds, we hope to enable the college to see immediate impact and help the institution meet and sustain its long-term needs."

"The Grants have been two of our most steadfast supporters for more than 40 years, and their tremendous influence can be seen throughout

Purchase College," says President Thomas J. Schwarz. "Their latest gift will enhance Purchase College's ability to attract and retain the highest caliber faculty and students, and I am exceedingly grateful for their continued generosity."

The new \$5 million gift by Emily and Eugene will establish three funds:

- **Eugene Grant Faculty Incentive Fund** (\$2 million nonendowed) will help recruit and retain faculty who advance the academic quality of the institution and support college priorities in teaching, learning and student success. This fund will also establish the Eugene Grant Distinguished Scholar for the Liberal Arts.
- **Emily Grant Opera Performance and Production Fund** (\$1.25 million endowed; \$250,000 nonendowed) will provide support for productions of the Opera Program within the Conservatory of Music and the School of the Arts.
- **Emily Grant Director's Excellence Fund** (\$1.25 million endowed; \$250,000 nonendowed) will help meet the Conservatory of Music's greatest needs and support undergraduate and graduate student scholarships, faculty and staff awards, and facility enhancements.

"This latest generous gift by the Grants is a model for the kind of support that is essential to maintaining Purchase College's nationwide standard of excellence," says Jeannine Starr, Purchase College's vice president of institutional advancement. "We will continue to work closely with Emily and Eugene to ensure that this gift reflects their spirit and goals, and I look forward to seeing its immediate and lasting impact on the entire Purchase College community."

GETTING VOCAL

When pianist Pete Malinverni became head of the Conservatory of Music's jazz studies program in 2012, he embarked on a plan to revive the program's concentration in jazz voice.

Two years later, 10 vocalists arrived on campus to develop their voices and to integrate vocals into the jazz program. Renowned recording artist Alexis Cole joined the faculty to head up the concentration.

"It's really important, too, for instrumentalists to work with singers, to play for them, because that's a big part of being employable these days," says Malinverni, who has taught full-time at Purchase since 2001. "The instrumentalists really have to hear the lyrics to the songs, and that gives them a deeper understanding of what they are supposed to be playing."

There are about 80 undergraduates in jazz studies, and the vocalists take core courses with the instrumentalists: theory, harmony, improvisation, repertoire, keyboard studies, and small-group combos.

"It's natural that some of our students will have more training than others in various areas previous to coming here," says Malinverni. "They learn right away what their strengths are, and the strengths of their colleagues. They call on each other for help, and they move forward as a community."

Among this year's jazz voice freshmen is Annie McLean '19, who spent a good part of her high school years performing in musicals and singing in summer theatre and in the jazz band at Westchester's Croton-Harmon High. She played the tenor saxophone as well. But she had no formal private study of voice.



"I never had voice lessons, so it has been a big game of catch-up," says McLean. "I really had to challenge myself. It hasn't been easy catching up to the instrumentalists in improvisation, but everyone is accommodating. And they enjoy collaborating with us."

In the small-combo classes, Malinverni gives each intimate group—which includes a vocalist—an assignment designed to challenge. In the 2014 spring semester, one group worked on the material on singer Carmen McRae's classic album of Thelonious Monk tunes. Another did its version of the classic 1963 collaboration between singer Johnny Hartman and tenor saxophone legend John Coltrane.

McLean's ensemble was assigned two tunes composed by saxophonist Wayne Shorter: "Fall" and "Nefertiti," which Shorter recorded with trumpeter Miles Davis. Neither tune has lyrics. That's a challenge that jazz singers welcome.

"I've been listening to Miles and singing the horn line," says McLean. "I've sung a million songs, but I've never been asked to sing the trumpet part. It's pretty cool."

The jazz voice program also attracted pianist Juno Arreglado '15, who has found a home at Purchase with singers in the student-run a cappella group Choral Pleasures, of which he has been musical director since his sophomore year. He also sings with the 60-member Purchase Soul Voices Choir, which is led by Malinverni. That includes singers from the conservatory, such as McLean, and nonmajors as well.



Paige DeMaio

New York's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance, held in Albany, featured the Purchase Soul Voices, with Purchase Choral Pleasures' guest vocalist Corry Loveday.

Arreglado, who grew up in New City in Rockland County, says that delving into vocal studies with Alexis Cole has helped him with his development on the keyboard.

"Hearing her sing makes me hear the lyrics for the first time," he says. "She taught me what real jazz voice is. It's such a different art than mainstream music."

Arreglado's small combo was assigned the Hartman-Coltrane album, with such classics as "Lush Life," "My One and Only Love," and "Autumn Serenade." Saxophonist Jaedon Alvira '16 played the Coltrane riffs. "I was drawn to Johnny Hartman a long, long time ago," says Arreglado. "'Lush Life' has always been my 'angsty' anthem."

The assignment led to exposure for the undergraduates on the region's premier jazz radio station, WBGO, in Newark, NJ. In March, the ensemble played six tunes from the album on the air. The live session can still be found online at wbgo.org. Others in the group included drummer Zachary Berns '16; bassist Michael Roninson '16; guitarist Drummond Dominguez-Kincannon '17, and pianist Ben Rice '15.



Purchase Soul Voices perform at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance in Albany.

Cole expresses her excitement about the program: "Every week these young singers are developing their vocal technique, and growing as artists and interpreters. My goal is to empower them with the tools to express the human story behind the song. Helping them on this leg of their personal journey, wherever it leads them, is endlessly inspiring."

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I had the pleasure of attending the Rockefeller Awards for Creativity in March. Master of Ceremonies Jay O. Sanders '76 (acting) gave a passionate speech about his path to Purchase and the lasting impact of his Purchase experience.

He reminded us that it's the students, and the alumni, whose brilliance and focus make Purchase an amazing place. He called on all alumni to showcase their own achievements to help raise awareness of the hidden gem that is our alma mater.

Whatever path brought you to Purchase and wherever you find yourself now, keep in touch. Connect on social media and share your news. Attend alumni events. Because it's only through YOUR collective experiences that we can tell the Purchase story with authenticity and zeal.

Finally, if you're in the position to do so, please consider making a gift to Purchase—to the program that means the most to you or to the unrestricted gifts fund. Help the next generation of students who choose to call Purchase home. Any amount you can give will have an impact.

Thank you.

Jeffrey S. Putman '96
President, Purchase College
Alumni Association
jeffrey.putman@purchase.edu

In Memoriam

Laura Glenn Golden '00



The Purchase College community extends condolences to the family and friends of Laura Glenn Golden, who passed away in September 2014 at the age of 38. Laura graduated magna cum laude from Purchase with a BFA in visual arts in 2000.

Laura was a gifted artist, known for her paintings, collage art, and custom-designed T-shirts. As an avid cyclist, she averaged 5,000 miles per year on her beloved Orbea Orca. According

to an obituary published in the *Athol Daily News* (the local paper where she lived), "Laura deeply touched many lives throughout Franklin County (MA) and beyond. Many cherished her atypical sense of humor, creativity, and unique reinvention of the English language." Laura served on the New Salem Fire Department and provided home health services for the homebound. She will be forever missed for her incredible strength, individuality, and her ever-reaching helping hand.

"Laura's years at SUNY Purchase were certainly among the brightest of the bright spots she had known," said her father, Paul Golden.

Alison M. Fairhurst '13



Alison M. Fairhurst '13 (new media), 23, a lifelong resident of White Plains, NY, passed away on Jan. 4, 2015. After she graduated from Purchase she worked for Guiding Eyes for the Blind as a Web specialist. She loved music, but her true love was for all animals; she especially appreciated the chance to foster a guide dog named Maggie. Fairhurst is survived by her parents; her brother, Jamie; and her grandparents, Donald and Carolyn Hazelton of Vermont.

ALUMNI | in Action

1974

Grace Zuckman Goldstein (literature) was the recipient of the Novartis Oncology Warner Advocacy Award for Excellence in NET Patient Advocacy. She works with patients who have the rare diseases of carcinoid cancer and related neuroendocrine tumors (NETs), including pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, which was the cancer that affected Steve Jobs of Apple.

1976

Herb Mendelson (theatre arts) has been appearing as the Mystic Oracle in the "magical theatre event" *Smoke and Mirrors* by Albie Selznick at the Odyssey Theatre in West Los Angeles. After a 12-year stint as executive vice president of sales and marketing at PermaCity Solar, Herb joined the governmental and institutional sales side of SolarCity.



Jay O. Sanders (acting) wrote a play, *Unexplored Interior*, which was the center of a historic online event on May 11, 2014, when a concert reading of the piece was part of a Google+ Hangout-on-Air between the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City's Battery Park and the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda. It was seen in 10 other countries as well, to mark the 20-year commemoration of the 1994 genocide.



Michael Savage (acting) created while at Purchase a new film genre called "multi-cast," which he calls a form of "historic reality." Imagine watching three or four actors being edited into every role. His first film of this genre to be submitted to film festivals will be *Talking to Strangers—Lovers & Friends*.

Jeffrey Skoblow (literature) has been teaching literature and writing at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, across the river from St. Louis, since 1987. He's

just published a small book, *In a Trance: On Paleo Art*, available for free download at punctumbooks.com.

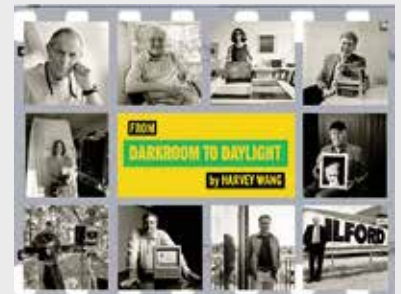


1977



Carl Safina (environmental science) has a new book, *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, coming out in July. Safina combines extensive observation of the families of free-living creatures with new discoveries about how the brain functions, calling into question the common view of the boundaries between humans and other animals. The book explores gatherings of African elephants, the wolves of Yellowstone National Park after a personal tragedy, and the peaceful society of the killer whales of the Pacific Northwest. It examines how animals truly think and feel, and what makes us human.

Harvey Wang (visual arts and anthropology) has completed a book and film called *From Darkroom to Daylight*. The project explores the dramatic change from film to digital modes in photography and features many important photographers, including Jerome Liebling, George Tice, Sally Mann, Gregory Crewdson '85, and Susan Meiselas, as well as Steven Sasson, co-inventor of the digital camera, and Thomas Knoll, co-creator of Photoshop. Also included is John Cohen, professor emeritus of visual arts at Purchase. The film has several screenings planned around the country, and the book will be published by Daylight Books in May 2015.



1978

Tessa Bell (liberal arts) reports that *Life Inside Out*, a film-festival favorite, was released in New York City in January at the Quad. After the film's strong two-week run in Los Angeles, a week back on the East Coast was a dream come true for Bell, who was the pro-



ducer of this family drama. The movie is available on Amazon and was released on DVD on April 21.

1979

Sandra H. Colen (sociology) is a psychotherapist in private practice, specializing in addiction and emotional illnesses. She received her master's degree in social work from Fordham University, is a certified addiction specialist-fellow, and was awarded a diplomate as a forensic counselor. Colen has often been a guest speaker on mental illness and chemical abuse. Appointed by the Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work as an adjunct professor, she has received many awards for her work.



Sandra H. Colen

1980

David Zarowin (philosophy) recently joined the office of external relations at the MIT Sloan School of Management as a senior leadership giving officer, raising major gifts from alumni and friends in Asia to support key Sloan initiatives. He made his first Sloan visit to Asia (his 20th overall in the last decade) in mid-March, when he traveled to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Kunming, and Shanghai.

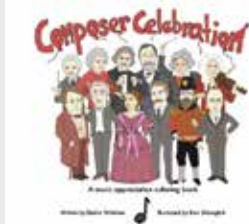
1981

Gary Golio (visual arts), a *New York Times* bestselling author, had his fourth children's picture book debut in March. *Bird & Diz*—about the creators and creation of bebop—was published by Candlewick Press, and follows Golio's prior books about such legendary musical subjects as Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, and John Coltrane. His forthcoming books will be about Billie Holiday and the song "Strange Fruit," and Carlos Santana's early years in Mexico. The message? Golio says: "The power of art!" See his other books at garygolio.com.



Debra Whitman (music) has led an active musical career as a private piano teacher, professional harpist, and teaching artist. In 1999, she created the Classical Kids Music program to promote music appreciation in children. Her accompanying music-appreciation coloring book, *Composer Celebration*,

is available online and at several independent bookstores throughout the New York area. She maintains a home studio in Larchmont with her husband and 11-year-old daughter.



1982

Andrea Modica (visual arts) reports that 40 platinum prints of human skulls from her series and book *Human Being* were donated to the Denver Art Museum by a private collector. They are currently being exhibited at the Fulginiti Gallery at the Colorado University School of Medicine. Read and hear more about Modica's project at ucdenver.edu.

L. Synn Stern (literature) is the health-service coordinator for what she calls New York City's "most idealistic" syringe exchange program, and has returned to school to become a nurse practitioner.

1983

Rosalie Trulli Vaccaro (visual arts) had paintings accepted into the Portrait Artists of Arizona's fifth annual Members' Juried Exhibition at the Scottsdale Artists' School. She was a founding member of Portrait Artists of Arizona and is a member of the Mesa Art League. Vaccaro works in oil, encaustic, and mixed media. Her website is rosalielvaccaro.com.

1984

Mary Corda (psychology) recently celebrated 25 years (known as the "Quarter Century Club") at IBM Corporation and serves as the communications director on the board of the Taconic Opera Company (taconicopera.org). She is also a mezzo-soprano in the opera chorus. Meanwhile, she says to the Class of 1984, "Thirty-one years! Where has all the time gone?"

Brian Drillinger (acting) produced and is in postproduction for his third indie feature film, *The Bandit Hound*. It's a family comedy starring Paul Sorvino, Judd Nelson, Catherine Bell, Lou Ferrigno, and Vern Troyer. Drillinger is now teaching acting at the T. Schreiber Studio in New York. He just directed *The Laramie Project*.

George Feaster (acting), in addition to acting, has been playing with his band Frogdaiquiri for more than 30 years. (They played at South dozens of times.) He and his band are now involved in the development of a documentary about maintaining a life in the arts in today's world. Other members of the band include Dave Lewitt '83 (music) and Josh Neretin '84 (visual arts). Feaster says: "Purchase Mafia!"



George Feaster & band

Jeffrey M. Markowitz (theatre design/technology) continues to work as a stage manager, producer, and general manager of live and televised events. In addition to stage managing events such as the *Billboard Awards*, the *Tony Awards*, *America's Got Talent*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Peter Pan Live!* for NBC and others, this year he produced the *Lord of the Rings Trilogy in Concert* at Lincoln Center (in April 2015) and *Manhattan Parisienne*, a new off-Broadway play, by Alain Boublil, lyricist and librettist of *Les Misérables*.

John Moyik (design tech) has (finally) become a scenic design member of IATSE Local USA829 in New York City, following the end of a 25-year business relationship in which he worked in industrials,

corporate theatre, and tradeshow exhibits. He also runs a small interactive technology company, [i]cell Interactive, Inc. (icellinteractive.com). It is the favorite "no-touch" interface for many of California's public libraries as well as various museums around the country.

Elizabeth Raver (psychology) completed her Ph.D. dissertation in 2014: *The Lived Experience of Math Anxiety in Female Elementary School Teachers*. In 2013 she presented an American Psychological Society poster, "Numerical Task Anxiety in Community College Students Studying Developmental Mathematics." Her research also includes studying quality-of-life issues resulting from severe food allergies in children and their families. She is married to Dr. Richard DeCesare, who has an Ed.D. in mathematics, and she is presently teaching Research Methods II at Purchase.

LisaBeth Weber (visual arts) is an entrepreneur, writer, artist, and musician. In addition to her work as a creative professional, she was recently elected to the board of directors of the Playing for Change Foundation (PFCF). PFCF is the educational foundation side of PlayingForChange.com, a music movement that gained worldwide recognition with the video of "Stand by Me," which included musicians from around the world. She is honored to be a part of the foundation, whose global mission is to create positive change through music and arts education.

1985

Jeanine Botta (film) co-founded *Silence the Horns* (silencethehorns.org), a grassroots campaign advocating for elimination of the horn sounds related to remote vehicle locking. She completed a bachelor's degree in sociology at Queens College in 2010, and recently enrolled in the environmental and occupational health sciences master of public health program at SUNY Downstate. In 2013, she presented a poster about vehicle alert sounds at the 21st International Congress on Acoustics in Montreal.

Mary-Kelly Rodden (literature) is currently a television producer for ABC's *General Hospital*. She has produced a total of six soap operas on all the major networks.

1986

Deirdre (Imershein) Haj (acting) is the director of the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival. Haj recently spoke at the International Film Festival Summit on a panel about festivals and filmmakers, and she was interviewed in *Synoptique: An Online Journal of Film and Moving Image Studies* this spring. She wrote an article for *Indiewire*, "Why Filmmakers Need the Festival Forum," which was the first association of film festivals.

Janice L. Minor (music), a clarinet professor at James Madison University, enjoys an active career as a solo recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral player, clinician, and music educator. She is a Buffet Group U.S.A. performing artist, and her CD *The Recital Clarinetist* with pianist Paulo Steinberg was recently released by Summit Records. It is available on Amazon and iTunes, and from Summit Records (summitrecords.com). For more information please visit janiceminor.com.



Janice L. Minor

ALUMNI | *in Action*

Beth (Schoenholtz) Udoma (literature) launched Pro-Cure Health Design, Inc., in 2013, a company committed to empowering and supporting biomedical and public health researchers at all levels and career stages. Discounts are available for SUNY Purchase alums. Pro-CureHD.com.

1987

Ned Farr (film) reports that his latest screenplay, *Coastline*, was chosen as a Top Ten Finalist in Francis Ford Coppola's 12th Annual American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest. His last two feature films, *The Gymnast* and *A Marine Story*, now have worldwide distribution and are available on Netflix and iTunes.

1989

Maya Ciarrocchi (dance) received a residency from the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City to develop *Gender/Power*, a hybrid installation performance work that poses questions about the dynamics of power in relationship to gender. The world premiere of *Gender/Power* was presented at the Gibney Dance Center in New York City in March.

Scott Walters (music) still sings on occasion, but has his plate full as a father of three children and as a travel agent. His agency, Go Away Often Travel, began in November 2014 and is fully licensed and able to book most destinations. He is active in his church and in other civic pursuits in Nanuet, where he and his family live.

1992

Jeffrey Shwarz (film) reports that his latest documentary feature, *Tab Hunter Confidential*, had its world premiere at the 2015 SXSW Film Festival in Austin, TX.



1993

Louise North (arts management) published her third book, *The Travel Journals of Henrietta Marchant Liston: North American and Lower Canada, 1796-1800*, in December 2014. She remains engaged in the arts as an actively involved docent at the Neuberger Museum of Art.

1997

Brigitte Vallabhajosula (liberal studies) is pleased to announce the release of her first book, *Murder in the Courtroom: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Violence* (Oxford University Press).

1998

Jeremy Baum (MFA, music) released his second album, *The Eel*, on Flying Yak Records with 10 Hammond B3 organ and piano-driven music. Hear and watch free videos at jeremybaum.com. He married Erica Grant on Sept. 14, 2014, at the Falcon in Marlboro, NY. Juma Sultan officiated. Baum reports that the couple celebrated their union with friends, family, music, and dancing, and they look forward to a long and happy life together.



Jacqueline Schmidt (visual arts) is the founder of the popular paper goods company Screech Owl Design, selling to over 1,000 stores worldwide. POW! published her first book, *Patchwork Helps a Friend*, in 2013. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Dwell*, *Vogue*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York* magazine, and other publications. She has been hailed for creating a quirky, detailed world "where



wildlife and wing chairs go hand-in-hand." A life-long New Yorker, Jacqueline lives in Brooklyn with her husband, two children, and cats.

2000

Antonio Santiago (liberal arts) was appointed associate dean of the Danbury campus of Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut in January 2015.

2001

Amy Sokal (women's studies) has joined ArtWorks/The Naomi Cohain Foundation as its executive director. ArtWorks provides children and young adults suffering from chronic and life-threatening illnesses, and their siblings, access to creative and performing arts programs that encourage the use of the creative process as a vehicle for healing, communication, self-expression, and personal development. As executive director, she will manage ArtWorks' collaborations with 40 partner hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout New York and New Jersey that benefit more than 17,000 children annually. Visit artworksfoundation.org.

Latrice Walker (sociology) was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing the 55th District in Brooklyn.

2002

Jamie London (drama studies) is a freelance writer, graphic designer, Web content manager, and poet. He currently attends Southern New Hampshire University and is studying for an MBA in international finance. He lives in the Chelsea section of Manhattan with his pets, Andrew and Coco the Bold and Beautiful.

Melanie Martini (visual arts) and her partner of nine years, Lauren Montuori, a producer, were married in Long Island City in October 2014. They live in Astoria with their dog. Martini is a visual merchandising and windows stylist; she previously worked for Bergdorf Goodman and MacKenzie-Childs, and has recently started a new job as a director of global visual merchandising design and store design at Estée Lauder.

2003

Adetokunboh M'Cormack (Acting) co-founded End Ebola Now with other Sierra Leonean Americans in the entertainment community, and partnered with Emergency USA (the only fully functioning hospital in Sierra Leone) to raise funds and awareness to combat the deadly disease.

Jon Samson (Music) won the international John Lennon Songwriting Contest's 2014 Grand Prize in the children's category for "Clean It Up," on his *A New Kids Album*. Samson is a songwriter and performer, producer, audio engineer (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*), educator, board-certified music therapist, and founder of CoCreative Music, based in Brooklyn. Awards for his "Kids Albums" include first place in the 2009 and 2011 International Songwriting Competition, a 2012 Parents' Choice Award, and a 2010 NAPPA Award. After completing his undergraduate degree in the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College, he earned a master's degree in music therapy at New York University.

2004

Elaine M. Ryan (liberal studies) attended Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services in Tarrytown, NY, and graduated in 2007 with a master's degree in social work with a specialization in gerontology; she followed up with licensure in 2011. Ryan has worked in long-term care and rehabilitation facilities throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties. She enjoys working with older adults and their families.

2005

Victor Giannini (creative writing) reports that his next book, *Counselor*, is being published by Silverthought Press in 2015. 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."

John Mattiuzzi (visual arts) would like to share his latest short film, *Zerogon*, available at vimeo.com/108301797.

2006

Champion Fulton (music) reports that her fifth album as a leader, *Change Partners*, was on the Top 40 on National Radio for 14 weeks. She is celebrating the release with a worldwide tour that includes stops in Israel, France, Spain, Switzerland, Canada, and the USA. Fulton's next project, *A Tribute to Dinah Washington*, will be released in 2016. Visit champion.net for more information.

Alicia Sully (film) and **Bob Geile '07** (film) traveled to a remote corner of Ghana to make the upcoming feature film *Nakom*. Sully produced and Geile was director of photography on the two-and-a-half-month production, set in a village with no electricity or running water. The film is now in postproduction. Learn more at NakomFilm.com.

2007

Jared Albert (journalism) was recently named one of "Cable TV's Overachievers under 30" by Cablefax. He is currently a senior publicist at Animal Planet.

Kelly Bruce (journalism) has become the new general manager for doNYC.com, a popular events website that powers the calendars of media outlets such as BrooklynVegan, WFUV, OkayPlayer, and *The Deli* magazine. The website also targets the lineup schedulers of major festivals such as the

Send your news, updates, and high-res digital photos to:
alumni@purchase.edu Remember to include your class year
 and major, and please keep content under 50 words.

Governor's Ball, Central Park Summerstage, and CMJ. As general manager, Kelly will be running partnerships, business development, advertising, and events, and overseeing general content and traffic growth.

Shira Daniels (cinema studies) is an associate producer/production coordinator for film and television. She is a member of the Producers' Guild of America, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, New York Women in Film & Television, and Film Independent, and is an Associated Press-credited photographer. She worked for NBC Universal from January 2008 until May 2011, at which time she began working for Zodiak New York.



Shira Daniels

2009

Martha Lynn Laskie (visual arts) was featured on ALGA as a showcased logo designer. Currently, she is the creative director for Alpha Beta Creatives and the branding design manager for Central Turf & Irrigation Supply, as well as being a professional freelancer.



Sam Newsome (master of music, jazz performance), a soprano saxophonist, released a new solo saxophone CD, *The Straight Horn of Africa: A Path to Liberation*, in October 2014. The CD was chosen as one of the Best New Releases of 2014 and Album of the Year by the *New York City Jazz Record*. In April 2015, he toured Europe with the acclaimed jazz group the Bad Plus as a member of its new project, *Science Fiction: The Music of Ornette Coleman*. To learn more about Newsome, please visit samnewsome.com.



Sam Newsome

Eva Marie Saavedra (creative writing) was a 2014 Poetry Society of America New York Chapbook Fellowship winner. Each year four renowned poets select and introduce a winning manuscript for publication. Her work, *Thirst*, selected by Marilyn Hacker, will be published, and she received a \$1,000 prize. Visit poetrysociety.org.

2010

Eric Burgos (sociology) is engaged to Sully Gonzalez '10, and has launched a new company called Modern Sound Deejays, LLC. Visit ModernSoundDeejays.com.

Lauren Chimento (literature) currently lives in Philadelphia and works as an editor at the National Board of Medical Examiners. She sings with the folk band Snagwing, and also creates music of her own under the name Brrd__calls. Her original songs and her performances of a few covers can be heard at soundcloud.com/renbird/sets/brrd__.

Tom DePaola (literature, philosophy) has been accepted to the EdD program in organizational change and leadership at the University of Southern California. He had been working at Bronx Community College since graduation, starting in a staff position that he expanded into something much larger. He created a learning community and worked with a cohort of students to increase retention and links to the community. He was also able to teach. DePaola was allowed to begin his PhD without first completing an MA in part because of his senior project experience (see page 14). He hopes to conduct research that will influence higher-education policy.

Ilana Ellis-Klein (film) co-produced, assistant edited, and shot second camera for the independent documentary film *Kabbalah Me*, directed by Judah Lazarus and Steven Bram, which premiered in August 2014 in New York City and Los Angeles. Among other writing and directing projects, she is currently creating a series of shorts for the Meaningful Life Center. She and her husband, Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Klein, are delighted to report the birth of their daughter, Sarah Klein, in March 2014.



Ilana Ellis-Klein

Marnie E. Lersch (visual arts) curated an exhibition of the work of artist Jeremy Holmes, titled *Convergence*, at Drexel University's Leonard Pearlstein Gallery. The exhibition was also part of Philadelphia's Fringe Art Festival and received a full-page review in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. She is a program associate at the Center for Emerging Visual Artists, where she directs the Philadelphia Open Studio Tours—visual arts festival, which attracts more than 50,000 visitors.

Kyle Pollard (music studio composition) is manager for the content programming arm of SiriusXM's Internet radio platform. In a few short years, Pollard has gone from meta-composition in Electro Acoustic Music for Professor Du Yun to metadata and search-engine optimization for Howard Stern.



Kyle Pollard

Pollard's Brooklyn-based band, Servant Girl, still plays a couple of nights a week, and recently released an E.P. engineered and mixed by J. Robbins last fall.

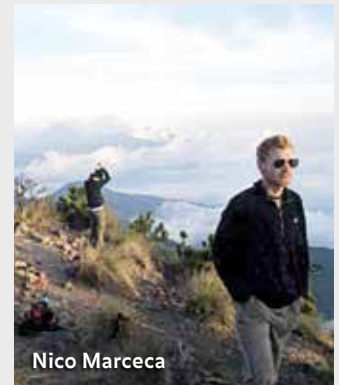


Juliana Weissbein

Juliana Weissbein (sociology, women's studies) is working in the fundraising and development professional community. She is now at the Ms. Foundation for Women after having worked at Teach for America and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. Weissbein focuses on supporting professional growth, team success, and measurable results, and in increasing fundraising revenue and reducing expenses.

2011

Nico Marceca (sociology) has been living in Guatemala, working as an expert volcano guide. In January 2015, Marceca and three friends raised more than \$19,000 for local charities by hiking all 37 of Guatemala's volcanoes in just 27 days (with peaks ranging from 3,300 to 13,800 feet). Marceca has hiked three active volcanoes, as well as Central America's highest peak.



Nico Marceca

Daniel Scott (philosophy) currently works in the Academic and Experiential Learning division of the Institute of International Education, where he manages application and database operations for scholarship programs, including the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program. In the fall of 2014, Scott joined the higher education administration master of arts program at Stony Brook University.

Esteban Valerio (political science) is currently a senior consultant for strategy and operations at Deloitte in its Costa Rica office. He provides insight to different Fortune 500 companies on how to optimize their operations to increase efficiency and overall performance.

2012

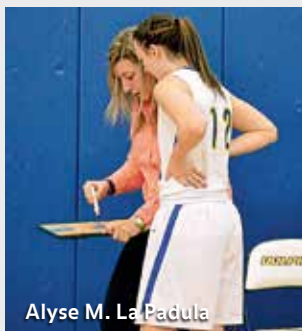
Emily Bishop (sociology, Latin American studies) was recently the regional coordinator for New Yorkers against Fracking, a coalition of organizations that worked together to ban high-volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State. This year, she will be applying to graduate school and road tripping around the country, taking photographs and collecting stories about those who are affected by environmental injustice.

Christian Frahme (film) reports that he found meager production work near his home in Orange County, NY, after graduation. For the last year, he's been doing freelance film editing in the greater New York area, cutting a slew of commercials as

well as a season of the nationally syndicated TV show *HouseSmarts*. Independently, he's shooting a Web series about figure-model painting.

Lindsey Jones (Dance) was featured in *Dance Magazine's* January 2015 issue as "On The Rise"!

Alyse M. LaPadula (history) is pursuing her dream of being a high school teacher and college basketball coach. She is currently a social studies teacher at Martin Luther King, Jr., High School in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. She is also the assistant women's basketball coach at the College of Mount Saint Vincent. In January 2014, she graduated from Long Island University with her master's degree in secondary education.



Alyse M. LaPadula

Steven Craig Smith (liberal studies) began working immediately after graduation as a paralegal for a law firm in Westchester, NY. He is now studying full-time at Long Island University-Hudson to earn his MBA in healthcare management. He reports that the altruistic spirit on the Purchase campus continues to guide him and has inspired him to earn a graduate degree.

Samantha Yergo (painting and drawing) is currently using her education to help others get back on their feet—literally. In October 2014, she joined the team at A Step Ahead Prosthetics and Orthotics on Long Island as an apprentice in anapastology, which provides amputees with custom silicone skin systems matched to their skin tones and hand sculpted to form lifelike recreations of their missing limbs. Yergo enjoys putting her artistic skills to work in a rewarding and inspirational occupation.



Samantha Yergo



2013

Maria Darron (graphic design) has been working with the staff of *The Beat*, Purchase's student-produced music and culture magazine, led by Professor Andrew Salomon, to design the print issues. She notes that it's been a great experience to revisit a project she worked on as a student.

Danielle Villano (creative writing) made the move to New York City this past summer and works as an editor at Scholastic, in its education division. She is writing a novel.

2014

Sydney Cohen (psychology, history) has been accepted to Hunter College and Simmons College to pursue graduate studies in social work.

Jordan Griffith (journalism) is the color commentator for the Westchester Knicks of the NBA's D-League. You can read about his budding career in journalism at nypressclub.org/meet_member.php.

The Rockefeller Awards for Creativity



Four distinguished members of the arts community were given the 2015 Nelson A. Rockefeller Award for Creativity during a ceremony on March 30 at Manhattan's New-York Historical Society, a site chosen as a nod of respect to Rockefeller's influential history benefiting Purchase College and beyond.

Purchase College President Thomas J. Schwarz presented Tony Award- and Grammy-winning singer and actress **Audra McDonald**; renowned classical dancer and educator **Jacques d'Amboise**; groundbreaking conceptual artist **Fred Wilson**; and influential patron of the arts **Lawrence B. Benenson** with the award named for Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, 41st vice president of the United States, 49th governor of New York State, businessman, philanthropist, ardent champion of the environment, visionary patron of the arts, and founder of Purchase College.

Nearly 175 guests—themselves representing a broad cross-section of award-winning performers and artists, well-known benefactors, and business and political leaders—attended the event hosted by a very passionate alumnus, actor **Jay O. Sanders '76**.

Previous Rockefeller Award recipients who attended included philanthropists and longtime supporters of Purchase College **Jane and Donald Cecil** and **Emily and Eugene Grant**; actress **Joanna Gleason**, accompanied by her husband actor **Chris Sarandon**; and renowned dancer and choreographer **Bill T. Jones**.

Many alumni attended, including comedienne and DJ **Amanda Seales '03**; writer, journalist, and musician **Adam Baer '92**; writer, teacher, and mindfulness expert **Gina de la Chesnaye '95**; **Frank Borsa '84** and **Jeffrey Wallace '86**, the creative team behind communications firm BorsaWallace; **Debra Roth '76**, an executive director at Morgan Stanley; biology professor **Jill Bargonetti '85**; photographer and filmmaker **Harvey Wang '77**; and dancer **Terese Capucilli '78**. The Honorable **David Dinkins**, former New York City mayor, also attended.

David Grill '86 provided lighting and production supervision, a cadre of students assisted as stage managers, and a string quartet of Conservatory of Music students entertained guests.



(L to R) Lawrence B. Benenson, Fred Wilson, Thomas J. Schwarz, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, and Jacques d'Amboise.

Neuberger Museum of Art

WHAT'S NEU?

What's Neu at the Neuberger? Lots of things—including a new director! Dr. Tracy Fitzpatrick started her tenure as the new director in November 2014 and has already moved the museum forward. Positive changes include the rollout of a new free "going green" membership level, midweek late hours starting in the fall, and an updated look and function for our lobby are just the start. Join or visit and discover What's Neu!

FREE MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that as an alum you are automatically a member of the Neuberger's Purchase College Circle of Friends? As a member you get free admission to the museum, all exhibition openings, Neu Nights Out, and our annual Holiday Party. You also get a monthly e-newsletter and 10% off in The SHOP. It's FREE. All you have to do is activate and then annually renew your membership with your current address and email.

Activate or renew TODAY by calling (914) 251-6114.

ON VIEW AND COMING SOON:

Kuba Textiles: Geometry in Form, Space, and Time

Through June 14, 2015

When Modern Was Contemporary:

The Roy R. Neuberger Collection

Through July 12, 2015

Plastic: Art in an Era of Material Innovation

May 9–July 12, 2015

Teresa Margolles: We Have a Common Thread

July 12–Oct. 11, 2015

Greed: GOLD

July 12–Oct. 11, 2015

Liza Lou: Color Field and the Ixube Works

Nov. 8, 2015–Feb. 7, 2016



THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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

The PAC's 2015–16 begins early in July, with two dynamic events. The National Youth Orchestra of the USA, 122 young musicians under the baton of conductor Charles Dutoit, will give its first public performance at the PAC on July 10 before embarking on a seven-city tour of China. On July 18 China comes to the PAC when the National Ballet of China makes its Purchase debut in a program fusing classic Western ballet with traditional Chinese dance.

The main 2015–2016 season begins in October with the return of the Five Browns, five siblings who are Steinway pianists and play at five pianos. Other fall 2015 performances encompass a broad range of genres, including the PAC debuts of Vertigo Dance Company, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, jazz great Arturo Sandoval, *Saturday Night Live's* Ana Gasteyer, and the Art of Time Ensemble, featuring Stephen Page of Barenaked Ladies and Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket in a re-imagining of the Beatles' classic *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Returning favorites include the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the second season of the PAC's partnership with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Winter and spring of 2015–16 will feature *A Chanticleer Christmas*, violinist Ray Chen, the Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour, the Martha Graham Dance Company, and much more.

In total, there will be more than three dozen presentations on the PAC's stages, as well as Purchase College Conservatory performances and other events, offering something for every taste and age level.

For subscriptions and information, including the availability of tickets for single events, contact The Performing Arts Center's box office at (914) 251-6200. www.ArtsCenter.org



National Ballet of China



Martha Graham Dance Company



Ana Gasteyer



Arturo Sandoval



Chanticleer

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