



April 17, 2017

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

Dear Colleagues:

I want to congratulate everyone on our recent recognition. President Schwarz announced earlier this month that Purchase College received the State University of New York's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Shared Governance for this academic year. Again, congratulations to everyone on this wonderful award.

Speaking of governance: it's thorny business, especially lately. It seems that politicians in Congress and state houses are happier when defined by who and what they are against, rather than by who and what they are for.

As a public college concerned with public life, how might we shape the institution's response to the current divisive and belittling hyper-partisanship?

My own answer is to say we should keep doing what we do. Our community habitually promotes thoughtful inquiry and inclusive engagement across campus activities. You can see it in what faculty and students do; in how our community reacts during times of crises; in the programs we select and produce; and in our attempts to redress our missteps and shortcomings.

But could we make these activities, and the knowledge they create, more salient features of our education?

As a community of citizen artists, scholars, and researchers, we are active on a lot of fronts devoted to advocacy, engagement, and social change. Here are examples that immediately come to mind:

- One of our music faculty members, Du Yun, has just been honored with the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her opera *Angel's Bone*, a "harrowing allegory for human trafficking in the modern world." Reached at a cultural summit in Abu Dhabi, she observed, "I'll still be me – who is very plugged into social change. That's the biggest impetus of why I want to write music."
- Our PSGA took up the cause last year against Corcraft's use of prison labor for its manufacturing.
- We have faculty and students involved each summer in ongoing efforts to preserve neighborhoods in Detroit.
- Our faculty, students, and staff are active environmentalists in the cause of sustainability (e.g., "The Rocket" composter, solar paneling, etc.).
- Our Multicultural Center sponsors a range of programs that promote diversity and inclusion.
- Students, in collaboration with faculty, conduct research in the Long Island Sound, New York City, Port Chester, and Yonkers, and as far away as Costa Rica and India.

This list is but a small sampling of efforts, and I am sure there are many that go unnoticed.

If we commingled all these efforts, incubated and supported their growth, and fostered new innovations, imagine the effects? Such a step could expand efforts to research community-based engagement and its impact on public dialogue, as a vehicle for building common understanding, increasing cooperation, or expanding

knowledge. This kind of initiative could also elevate Purchase's reputation for fostering critical and open dialogue that promotes an inclusive and robust public life.

Is it time to give these efforts a "home" on the campus? This place (e.g., a room, a "center," a location within the library, etc.) could build on our cross-disciplinary knowledge, which often results in projects that promote social change and inspire community engagement in a range of practices. Ultimately, such a place—thinking really big— could expand the influence of Purchase College, its faculty, students, and staff.

Strategic Plan Update: The Budget Priorities Committee (BPC) is evaluating initiatives for the next two-year budget cycle, designed to correct for a \$3 million deficit. These initiatives, enabled by our overall financial strength, will inform larger strategic initiatives in the new plan. The initiatives currently being reviewed by BPC are not strategic plan initiatives, but are reflective of the kind of longer-range considerations that the new plan will need to formalize.

Congratulations to Our Recent Faculty Award Recipients

I am pleased to announce the recipients of three Purchase College faculty awards. Please join us in congratulating them.

[2017–19 Doris and Carl Kempner Senior Faculty Research Award:](#)

Shemeem Burney Abbas, Associate Professor of Political Science

[2016–17 Emily and Eugene Grant Faculty Award:](#)

Mary Kosut, Associate Professor of Sociology

[2016–17 Dee and Robert Topol Faculty Development Award:](#)

Ager Gondra, Assistant Professor of Language and Culture

Pete Malinverni, Assistant Professor of Practice in Music

Mehdi Okasi, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

Jason Pine, Assistant Professor of Media, Society, and the Arts

We are grateful for the continuing generosity of our donors, who make these awards possible, and thank the Faculty Professional Standards and Awards Committee for their work in reviewing the applications and recommending finalists to the provost.

Save the Dates!

[Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception](#)

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

Library, Second Floor Reading Room

[RSVP](#) by April 25

[Student Awards Ceremony](#)

Thurs., May 11, 4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

Finals Countdown at the Library

Believe it or not, Finals Countdown is coming! Look forward to relaxing with button making, postcards, free tea, and crafts from **Monday, May 1, through Tuesday, May 9**. Full details coming soon.

24/5 Starts May 1: Also beginning on Monday, May 1, at 8 a.m., the [Library will be open 24/5](#) through the rest

of the semester. During this period, the Library is open continuously five days a week—from Sunday at noon until Friday at midnight—closing at midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

Upcoming Events: April–May

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

Exhibitions on view:

Neuberger Museum of Art:

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

Neuberger Museum of Art at SPACE | 42:

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

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

- [MFA Thesis Exhibition Series, Show I](#) (through April 21)
- [MFA Thesis Exhibition Series, Show II](#) (April 26–May 5) **Opening reception:** April 26, 6 p.m.
- [Visual Arts Senior Thesis Exhibition](#) (May 13–17)

Tonight! [Purchase Jazz Orchestra](#)

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

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

[Library Spring Book Sale](#)

Tues.–Wed, April 18–19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

In front of the Library

[Artist Talk: Dulce Pinzón](#)

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

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Karen Washington: Urban Black Farmers and Environmental Justice](#)

Tues., April 18, 6:30 p.m.

Admission, Buffer Room

[Tobacco-Free Plaza Event](#)

Wed., April 19, 12–2 p.m.

Main plaza, in front of the Student Services Building

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

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

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Heather Davis: Rendering Life Molecular](#)

Thurs., April 20, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Deborah Kass and Eric Shiner in Conversation](#)

Thurs., April 20, 6:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art SPACE | 42, NYC

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra](#)

Friday, April 21, 7 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Purchase Repertory Theatre: The Hot L Baltimore](#)

Fri., April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 22, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Wed.–Fri., April 26–28, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 29, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Dance Company: Spring Dance Concert](#)

Fri., April 21, 8 p.m., with artist talk at 7:15 p.m.

Sat., April 22, 2 & 8 p.m.

Sun., April 23, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[Open House: Summer 2017 Youth and Precollege Programs in the Arts](#)

Sat., April 22, 10 a.m.

Music Building, Suite 0078

[Fei-Fei Dong](#)

Sun., April 23, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

[Purchase Jazz Orchestra in NYC](#)

Mon, April 24, 8 p.m.

Blue Note Jazz Club, NYC

[Purchase Jazz Orchestra Celebrates Ella Fitzgerald](#)

Tues., April 25, 7 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Open Classroom: Third-Stream Jazz Performance](#)

Wed., April 26, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art, Center Gallery

[2017 Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception](#)

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

Library, Second Floor Reading Room

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Ben Davis](#)

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

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Soul Voices: We Shall Not Be Moved](#)

Wed., April 26, 7 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[36th Annual Natural and Social Sciences Student Research Symposium](#)

Sat., April 29, 8:15 a.m.–1 p.m.

On campus

[Jazz at the Center: A Tribute to Sonny Rollins](#)

Sat., April 29, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

[National Theatre Live: Hedda Gabler](#)

Sun., April 30, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[Purchase Chorus](#)

Mon., May 1, 7:30 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Purchase Contemporary and Percussion Ensembles](#)

Tues., May 2, 8 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Purchase New Music](#)

Wed., May 3, 8 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra](#)

Thurs., May 4, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra](#)

Thurs., May 4, 8:30 p.m.

Music Building, Choral Hall

[Pancake Madness](#)

Thurs., May 4, 10 p.m.

Dining Hall

[João Luiz Rezende: Blueprint Performance](#)

Fri., May 5, 3 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Alumni Weekend: H&P Alumni Ball](#)

Fri., May 5, 6:30 p.m.

espace, NYC

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra: Family Concert](#)

Fri., May 5, 7 p.m.

Plaza in front of the Music Building

[Alumni Weekend: Alumni Picnic](#)

Sat., May 6, 1 p.m.

Admissions, Buffer Room and Lawn

[Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Return to Mozart](#)

Sat., May 6, 5 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

[National Theatre Live: Twelfth Night](#)

Sat., May 6, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[35th Annual Student Awards Ceremony](#)

Thursday, May 11, 4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

[Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane](#)

Sat., May 13, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[Annual Senior Project Processional](#)

Tues., May 16, 4 p.m.

Southside of the Library

[45th Annual Commencement](#)

Friday, May 19, 12:30 p.m. (doors open at 11 a.m.)

Westchester County Center

[Summer Session I Begins](#) (online)

Mon., May 22

[Purchase Dance Company at New York Live Arts](#)

Wed.–Fri., May 24–26, 7:30 p.m.

NYC