



May 15, 2017

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

Dear Colleagues:

“Hey, pal, that’s leaking,” the young guy said to me as I crossed campus holding my lunch container upside down, spilling its contents as I walked. At first, my privilege got the best of me: “This guy clearly has no idea who I am. Who is he calling ‘pal’?” Then I stopped, noticed my lunch dribbling down my pant leg onto my shoes, and thought, “My dad was right: I don’t have the sense to come out of the rain.”

That’s the kind of year it’s been. I’m not sure why, but there has been a lot of time spent lost in a fog. It’s typical, come May, to have end-of-the-year fatigue. That sensation isn’t unsettling. But it’s one thing to feel tired and spent, and another to feel upside down and inside out, like a lunch flipped wrong-side down, spilling out of its container.

Retracing the year in an attempt to right this feeling means sorting out the good from the bad or the ugly. In this exercise, I keep stumbling between narratives. There’s the Purchase narrative, which is filled with a lot of good. And then there’s the larger, geopolitical/cultural narrative (e.g., travel bans, intolerance, etc.) that seems to upend so much of what’s good. So I’ll focus on the Purchase narrative. (Or at least I’ll try.)

Despite the year beginning with a fire in K-street, which was followed by the election results ... (Oops, right off the bat, I’m doing it. How did I get from “fire” to “election”? Must. Consult. Mystic.)

We made progress on many fronts. Our first-to-second-semester retention was near our all-time high of 94 percent. The returning student numbers are holding strong for the fall. The number of new admits looks good, and we survived a surprise Title IV review by the Department of Education that I’m sure was backlash for our support of DACA students. (Whoa there—no alternative facts or fake news. Our Title IV review had nothing to do with the election of a partisan president ... but it felt like it did.)

Our students continued to do stunning work that really highlighted their creative and intellectual abilities. The Natural and Social Sciences Student Symposium was once again a real highlight. The students’ various forms of expression across the School of the Arts were exhilarating. I especially appreciated the work that centered on freedoms of expression that pushed back on the current attempts to squelch free speech. (Stop it! Again, I’m sorry. Damned mixed narratives.)

There were so many fabulous events that captured the work of faculty and students, it would be impossible to choose even five or 10 of my favorites. Our campus is a rich ecosystem that counters the current attempts to dismantle climate change. (What? Now I’m mixing within the mixing: Campus ecosystem gets me to climate change? I need help. Stop mixing!)

A particularly strong element of this fact is our continued efforts on shared governance. While there are ongoing, important discussions that fine-tune communication, we continue to work to counterbalance the

dissembling and equivocating we see playing out at the national level. (No, folks: I'm not mixing the narratives on this one.)

It's been gratifying to engage in really important campus dialogues that have been civil and reasonable. The creative and investigative work of faculty and students has also been a much-needed antidote to less reasonable, one-sided discussions. These efforts have helped to right my upside-down, inside-out feeling. Thank you.

In retracing the year, I know we've done a great deal of good. It's not lost on me, however, that in sorting out the year, like many of you, I'm sorting through various sets of emotions, depending on the narrative I'm inhabiting. It's good to be able to do that sorting with the help of Purchase. So I know I am better off—even in a mixed reality—for having been here and not somewhere else. Have a great summer.

**Strategic Plan Update:** The BPC has completed its review of financial initiatives. We are awaiting the committee's final recommendations.

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## Purchase College Faculty Awards

I am pleased to announce the recipients of this year's final round of Purchase College faculty awards. *Please join me in congratulating them.* Given the restrictions of state funding, we remain deeply grateful for our donors' generosity in providing this essential support. Special thanks are also due to the Faculty Professional Standards and Awards Committee for evaluating and providing recommendations for the Fishbein and Faculty Support awards.

### [2017–19 Peter and Bette Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts](#)

Thanks to the generosity of Peter and Bette Fishbein, this award provides \$5,000 to cover costs necessary for undertaking a scholarly research endeavor in one of the liberal arts disciplines. The **2017–19 recipient** is **Christian Bailey**, assistant professor of history. The funding will help support his travel to Israel, Germany, and Austria to conduct archival research for a book project, provisionally titled *The Stranger Who Dwells with You: Love between Jews and other Germans, 1874–1968*.

[Faculty Support Awards](#) are used to fund research, academic travel and conference presentations, artistic endeavors, or other comparable professional activity. The **spring 2017 recipients** are:

**Elliott Abrams**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Matthew Bollinger**, *Art+Design*  
**Bradley Brookshire**, *Music*  
**Lenora Champagne**, *Theatre Arts*  
**Meagan Curtis**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Victoria Estok**, *Film & Media Studies*  
**Steven Flusberg**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Cobina Gillitt**, *Theatre Arts*  
**Kate Gilmore**, *Art+Design*  
**Paula Halperin**, *Humanities*  
**Yanine Hess**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Cassandra Hooper**, *Art+Design*  
**Mara Horowitz**, *Humanities*  
**Sharon Horvath**, *Art+Design*  
**Matthew Immergut**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**George Kraemer**, *Natural & Social Sciences*

**Julian Kreimer**, *Art+Design*  
**Elise Lemire**, *Humanities*  
**J. Elliott Lewis**, *Humanities*  
**Beth Livensperger**, *Art+Design*  
**Sara Magenheimer**, *Film & Media Studies*  
**Lisa Jean Moore**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Gaura Narayan**, *Humanities*  
**Krystal Perkins**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Lenka Píchliková**, *Theatre Arts*  
**Pamela Prather**, *Theatre Arts*  
**Paul Siegel**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Karen Singer-Freeman**, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
**Robert Swainston**, *Art+Design*  
**Kalin Wang**, *Humanities*  
**Renqui Yu**, *Humanities*  
**Raphael Zollinger**, *Art+Design*

[Part-Time Teaching Support Awards](#) are used to support the advancement of teaching for part-time faculty who teach less than half time. These awards may be used for reimbursement of conference or workshop registration, travel, or material and supply expenses. The **spring 2017 recipients** are **Amanda Thackray** in the School of Art+Design and **Judy Loeff** in the Conservatory of Dance.

## Upcoming Events: 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** (and throughout the Visual Arts Building):

- [Visual Arts Senior Thesis Exhibition](#) (through May 17)

### Senior Week

**Tues., May 16–Thurs., May 18**

Check the [Campus Calendar](#) for events

### Last Day of Spring 2017 classes

**Tues., May 16**

### [23rd Annual Senior Project Processional](#)

**Tues., May 16**, 4 p.m.

Southside to the Library

### [45th Annual Commencement](#)

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

Westchester County Center

198 Central Avenue, White Plains

### [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