



August 18, 2017

To: The Faculty and Staff

From: Barry Pearson, Provost

Dear Colleagues:

Beginnings are really special events. It's one of the unique things about working at any college: we get to begin anew each year. This time of year, though, I'm reminded of my first year as a faculty member and the year's first event when the president gave remarks. He talked about corn and concrete. If you're like me, I wondered where the hell I worked. Corn? Concrete? Do I work at a college or John Deere?

The corn came from the farmland, which was a part of the endowment. The president said, "We got a good price this year. Yields per acre were high." The concrete was in reference to all the repairs to sidewalks that he was especially proud of because he had personally "overseen the work." Of course, that remark made more sense in relation to his presidency later, as I came to know him.

I don't have stories about corn or concrete—I know you're disappointed. I have of late been wondering, though, about what I'd say on the first day of class if I were still teaching. And I'm sure all of you have that first lecture set and ready to go, so I understand that there's no time to edit at this point. Those syllabi are tightly packed and all the materials ordered and neatly compiled. (And, yes, for those of you who don't know me yet, I am being a smart aleck! If you're like me, as excited as I am about the start of the year, I'm still in denial that it's that time of year already. Didn't we just have commencement?)

Ruminations on my own imaginary "first lecture," however, have more to do with the events in Charlottesville. While my musings remind me how much I miss teaching, they also come from a desire to reshape our students' feelings about the world and lessen their anxiety about the future. I'm not sure if this is a good starting point for a class or not. But I am concerned about how, for new students especially, the recent events and the ensuing vitriol across the media, might shape—or misshape—our students' understanding of Purchase and our values as a community.

How might we let them know that we are not a community that turns its back on these events, nor do we succumb to their hateful effects? For me, as I imagine my first lecture, it's in part what I teach, but I'd like to believe it's more in *how* I teach.

The recent events just make me want to say to them, "It will be okay because you are the answer." For me, when I despair, I think about our students and how truly inspiring they are. We've seen them time and again rise above it all to articulate and interrogate bigoted notions of people and the world. And, of course, none of that would happen if not for all of you. For this reason, especially, I am so looking forward to being among you again.

New Full-Time Faculty

Please join me in welcoming our 17 [new full-time faculty](#) this fall. Eleven appointments are on the tenure track, including four faculty members (Deborah Buck, Ragnhild Utheim, Stanley Wolukau-Wanambwa, and Ling Zhang)

who have been teaching at Purchase on visiting or part-time appointments. I look forward to meeting with our new full-time faculty during their [orientation](#) on Wednesday, August 23.

Upcoming Award and Leave Application Deadlines

Please note the application/nomination deadlines this semester for:

- [Junior Faculty Development Leaves](#): **October 2** (to your chair or director)
- [Sabbatical Leaves](#): **October 2** (to your chair or director)
- [Faculty Support Awards](#): **November 1** (to your chair or director)
- [Part-Time Teaching Support Awards](#): **November 15** (to your chair or director)
- [Chancellor's Awards for Excellence](#): The respective peer-review committees on campus will issue calls for nominations this fall. **December 1** is the deadline for peer review of nominations for all categories except [Adjunct Teaching](#). (Nominations for the Adjunct Teaching award must be peer-reviewed earlier because they are due to SUNY on November 13, an earlier deadline than the other categories.)

For more information, including the leave application form and application deadlines in spring 2018, please visit the [Faculty Awards](#) section on the Office of the Provost website. Information on awards and leaves offered through the New York State/United University Professions Joint Labor-Management Committees (JLMC) is available at nysuup.lmc.ny.gov.

2017–18 Faculty Handbook Online

What is the process for proposing a course or revising a curriculum? What is a faculty member's role in helping students with disabilities succeed at Purchase? How long must you retain assessed student work? How can you promote your professional activities and accomplishments? What is the faculty review timeline for reappointment, promotion, and tenure? Find answers to these and much more in the **2017–18 edition of the Faculty Handbook**, available at www.purchase.edu/faculty-handbook. It contains a wealth of information for faculty members in every stage of their career at Purchase. The handbook is also updated as needed to reflect changes that may occur during the academic year.

Teaching and Learning Book Club and Keynote Presentation

Purchase College is collaborating with SUNY Oswego this fall to host a joint faculty book club exploring James Lang's *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning*. Participants will receive a copy of the text from the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center (TLTC) and will have conversations with colleagues from Purchase and Oswego about the topics covered and how they apply to our teaching.

The TLTC will host a livestream of Lang's keynote presentation from SUNY Oswego on **August 23** from **11 a.m. to noon** in the TLTC conference room (Library 0008A). [More information](#) is available online at the TLTC.

Upcoming Events

Be sure to check the redesigned [campus calendar](#) for upcoming events. You can search it using a range of filters, save and share the events, and add them to your Outlook, Google, Yahoo, or iCal calendars. For events at the Performing Arts Center, you can also check the [PAC calendar](#) and then order your tickets online. (Online ticket sales close 24 hours before each event. To check on the availability of day-of-show tickets, call the box office at 914 251-6200.)