



February 20, 2018

To: The Faculty and Staff

From: Barry Pearson, Provost

Dear Colleagues:

A year ago—almost to the day—I announced that the evaluation of our 2010-2015 strategic plan was complete. You can still access the evaluation on the [Assessment Collaborate](#) space.

The evaluation of the plan is one of three documents that should shape the development of our new strategic plan. Two other documents should also figure prominently in our deliberations: the Periodic Review for Middle States (PRR), which was completed last year, and our SUNY Performance Improvement Plan (PIP). The PRR is available upon request. The college's Performance Improvement Plan—approved by SUNY well over a year ago—can be found at [SUNY Excels 2015 Performance Improvement Plan](#).

I would offer just one word of caution, however: while the previous plan's evaluation, the PIP, and PRR should influence our deliberations, they should not deter us from reflecting on Purchase's unique mission and its relevance. In thinking about our mission, I'd like to return to an idea that I discussed in *Notes* in December 2015. I wrote then that I hoped as we developed our next strategic plan we could advance the connections between critical and creative inquiry as the defining characteristic of our liberal education. I believed then that these interconnections could empower students for success in an economy that will be complex, competitive, and frequently disrupted. I still believe in this idea today.

I went on to say that I believe Purchase is uniquely positioned to offer students an experience that is expansively democratic, personally liberating, and globally relevant. I was attempting in 2015 to outline an overarching philosophy that might ground our strategic planning in core values. As a continuation of that effort, I hope you will join the conversations currently being sponsored by the Strategic Planning and Assessment Committee about Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). The next forum (*The Alphabet Soup of ILOs, PLOs and SLOs: How does connecting the dots inform the next strategic plan?*) will be this Thursday, February 22, from 3:00-5:30, in the Library on the second floor.

Please take time to think about our future. In contemplating the prospect myself, I found Noam Chomsky to be helpful when he said, "Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so." And I would add that it falls to us to encourage this responsibility—the one to make the future better—in our students and ourselves. My hope is that our new plan can present a recipe for continually regenerating our collective and shared optimism. With a shared hopefulness, we can learn together how to shape a public space that is democratic, just, and inclusive.

Reminder: Spring Faculty Award Application Deadlines

Application/nomination deadlines are approaching for the following Purchase College faculty awards, please note all applications must be forwarded to your Chair/Director prior to the dates listed below. The dates below are when they are due in the Provost office and/or unless otherwise noted:

- [Spring 2018 Faculty Support Awards](#): **March 1**
- [Spring 2018 Part-Time Faculty Teaching Support Awards](#): **March 15**
- [2018-2020 Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts](#): **March 30**
- [Jewish Studies Faculty Research/Professional Development Award](#): **March 30**

For more information, including 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.

NEUBERGER MUSEUM

Introducing a new exhibition and program at the Neuberger Museum of Art!

From Motherwell to Hofmann: The Samuel Kootz Gallery, 1945–1966

This is the first exhibition to examine the critical role Samuel Kootz (1898–1982) and his gallery played in establishing modern American art as an international force.

The exhibition was organized by the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia.

Join us for the return of *Art Sandwiched-In*, a monthly lunch-and-learn program

Friday, March 2 from 12:30-2:00PM

12:30-1:00PM: Bring lunch and socialize with fellow art lovers

1:00-2:00PM: Enjoy a Curator-led tour of the *From Motherwell to Hofmann* exhibition

No reservations required. Free to the campus community.

All other [Events](#) at the Neuberger Museum

Natural and Social Sciences Lecture Series

[Lola Fatoyinbo, Ph.D.](#)

Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer

Biospheric Sciences Laboratory

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m. | Natural Sciences Lecture Hall (1001)

Tree-hugging Meets Rocket Science: Space-age Estimation of Forest Carbon Stocks

Performing Arts Center

Spring 2018 Dance series is a prime example of The PAC's ongoing commitment to commissioning innovative new work, nurturing the artists of the future, and creating unique opportunities for Purchase students to interact with professional artists.

March will begin with a visit from Benjamin Millepied's L.A. Dance Project, who will be spending a week on campus before the performances on March 2 & 3. LADP has made its mark with a multi-disciplinary approach that the L.A. Times describes as "a defining artistic vision for our time." We're proud to say that The PAC, in partnership with Joyce Theater Productions, served as Technical Development home for two of the pieces that will be performed here - Orpheus Highway and YAG.

Following close on their heels will be RUBBERBANDance Group (March 31); their visit will also include a residency component. Beating with the fresh pulse of street attitude, RBGD explores human relationships with honesty and courage. They combine the spontaneity, fearlessness, and risk-taking of hip-hop culture with the refinement and choreographic maturity of the ballet. A must see!

For the dance series grand finale, The PAC has something truly special in the works. They've commissioned a new work from Jessica Lang Dance. It will be the first ever to be set to Tony Bennett's music, it will be developed right here on campus, and it will premiere here on May 5. The gala celebration of The PAC's 40th anniversary will also take place that night – what better way to celebrate?

Tickets and more info about these and other PAC events can be found at www.artscenter.org. Student rush and faculty/staff discounts are available for most performances, keep an eye on your purchase.edu email and The PAC's social media accounts for details.