



April 16, 2018

To: The Faculty and Staff

From: Barry Pearson, Provost

Dear Colleagues:

I'm sure each one of us has a person from our past that stands out for having shaped some part of our thinking. I do as well. Marv Klaven was a full professor and a painter when I met him in the late 80s. He chained smoked, and his paintings were as no nonsense as he was. Like Marv, you had to meet each work one on its own and honorably.

When I first met Marv, faculty and staff could still smoke in their offices. So when I arrived for my job interview fresh out of graduate school, I entered into a hazels smoke as Marv puffed on his cigarette. When I set down facing his large desk, Marv kicked back in his chair, placing his foot into a perfectly worn notch in the top's edge. Once settled, he said, "I have no damned idea why they have me, the chair of art, interview you new faculty types from across campus." Years later, I would learn why I was sitting in Marv's office that day.

Marv smoked a lot and asked direct questions during the interview. Then he said this to me before we ended, "The only thing I love more than being a painter is being a husband and a father. But running neck and neck with all of them is being a tenured faculty member at this college." He stared at me for what felt like an eternity then took a long drag on his cigarette, exhaled it without any fanciness, and stood up to shake my hand. He was done with me.

It was only later as a faculty member that I came to know how much Marv loved the college. He had committed several impressive acts of generosity as proof. First, he refused to take down a painting from the gallery when the college president insisted. Marv said he wouldn't do it. So the president walked over hammer in hand, with campus security in tow, and took it down himself. On another occasion, when protesters stood outside the art department demanding an exhibit of Mapplethorpe's work be taken down, Marv told them, in clear farmland talk, there would be no meetings, no discussions, no open forums—the work would remain. At faculty meetings, Marv would rarely speak, but when he did rise to address the faculty you dropped what you were doing to listen to him.

I describe these acts as generous because Marv didn't have to do them. He could have removed the painting, or closed the photography exhibit, or sat by and said nothing at faculty meetings. But Marv would remind us, by what he did and said, that the faculty had a responsibility to steward the intellectual and educational health of the college. And to those with tenure, he would say, "You, of all, have a special responsibility." We knew what Marv meant. He was the very model of that "special responsibility." He lived it.

Some years later, I earned tenure at the college. In the early 90s, nobody knew what the standards were. I just remember receiving an envelope in my office one day with a letter in it that said, “You’ve been granted tenure and promoted to associate professor.” I asked Marv how it happened. He said, “Hell, I’m not even sure. But from the start, I thought you’d get it.” And it was at that moment that I realized why I had interviewed with Marv six years earlier. He was a standard bearer for the college and held sway over who joined it.

Today, we clearly articulate the standards for promotion and tenure. They are not secret and, appropriately, the criteria help ensure fairness across the college and for all candidates. I like the way we do it today. But I often remember Marv’s admonition to those with tenure; that they have a “special responsibility.” While Marv wouldn’t fit in today, his call to think critically and deeply about important topics—in writing and the arts—and to speak openly and civilly, still resonates with me today. Most of all, Marv’s call to steward the institution—to care for its quality and attend to its health with “special responsibility”—resonates loud and clear.

It’s at this time of year as I begin to read promotion and tenure files that I think about Marv. His fierce, unyielding mind remains with me. Many years later, when I was allowed to drink at his house, Marv told me about being the first Jew at the college. He said that it pained him to attend Baccalaureate service each year (a very Christian affair), which we were required to do by contract. He said it was the one acquiescence to the college he allowed himself as a person of faith. I asked him why he did it. Marv said, looking up from his cigarette, “for the students.”

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*Faculty awards are made possible through the generous donations provided by our donors of the Purchase College Foundation office and its Related Entities. We would like to take this time to thank the donors for making these awards possible. We would also like to give a special thank you and provide our condolences to the family on the recent loss of one of our dear donors, Eugene Grant. Thank you for making these awards possible for our faculty.*

## **AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE SPRING 2018**

*Please join me on congratulating your colleagues*

### **EMILY AND EUGENE GRANT**

Edwin Martinez, Assistant Professor of Film

### **FACULTY SUPPORT AWARD**

Elliott Abrams, Natural & Social Sciences

Michael Bell-Smith, Film & Media Studies

Matthew Bollinger, Art+Design

Nancy Bowen, Art+Design

Bradley Brookshire, Music

Jessica Carnevale, Natural & Social Sciences

Darrah Carr, Conservatory of Dance

Ross Daly, Humanities

Jan Factor, Natural & Social Sciences

Stephen Flusberg, Natural & Social Sciences

Casey Haskins, Humanities

Mara Horowitz, Humanities

Laura Kaminsky, Music

David Kim, Natural & Social Sciences

Aaron Krach, Art +Design

J. Elliott Lewis, Humanities

Sara Magenheimer, Film & Media Studies

Rachel Owens, Art+Design

Jason Pine, Film & Media Studies

Lorraine Plourde, Film & Media Studies

Eric Pomerantz, Film & Media Studies

Pamela Prather, Theatre Arts

Shruti Rajagopalan, Natural & Social Sciences

Emily Sausen, Humanities

Jordan Shue, Theatre Arts

Irina Shablinsky, Natural & Social Sciences

Jordan Shue, Arts Management  
Alexis Silver, Natural & Social Sciences  
Brooke Singer, Art +Design  
Robert Swainston, Art +Design

Karen Uscinski, Humanities  
Jennifer Uleman, Humanities  
Renqui Yu, Humanities

**DORIS AND CARL KEMPNER DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS**  
2018 – 20 Jennifer Uleman, Humanities

**JUANITA AND JOSEPH LEFF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**  
2018-2019 Stella Ebner, Art+Design

**TOPOL**

James Daly and Allyson Jackson, NSS  
Matthew Immergut, NSS  
Lorraine Plourde, FMS  
Ragnild Utheim, Arts Mgmt

**PART TIME TEACHING SUPPORT AWARD**  
Amanda Thackray, Art+Design

[Faculty Awards](#) section on the Office of the Provost website and/or for information on awards and leaves offered through [New York State United University Professions Joint Labor-Management Committees](#).

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception  
Wed. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6:30pm  
Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr. Reading Rm

Student Awards Ceremony  
Wed. May 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6:00pm  
PAC, Recital Hall

**NEUBERGER MUSEUM**

Happy Hour @ the Neu -4:30pm  
Sip and Sketch 6:00-7:00  
Wed. April 25<sup>th</sup>

Art Jam @ 6:30pm  
Sat. April 28<sup>th</sup>

Wed. May 9, the Neuberger Museum will host a special reception for faculty and staff of their newly installed exhibit *Then & Now: Modern and Contemporary Selections from the Permanent Collection*. Happy Hour begins at 5pm, and at 5:15 director Tracy Fitzpatrick will provide a 30 minute gallery tour.

Please check out all other [Events](#) at the Neuberger Museum.

## ***Natural and Social Sciences***

Natural and Social Sciences Student Research Symposium  
Sat. May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-4:00pm

## ***Performing Arts Center***

Jazz at The Center's Big Band Dance Party

Collaboration, cooperation, and cross-pollination with the College at all levels is central to The PAC's vision for this season and beyond. The Jazz at The Center series, co-curated by Jon Faddis, Professor and Director of Jazz Performance in the Conservatory of Music, and now in its second year, is a prime example. These festival-style programs bring together the genre's greats and rising stars, and draw heavily from the "home-grown" talent coming out of the Conservatory's Jazz program.

Since April is Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM!), it fitting that The PAC will close out the 2017-2018 Jazz series this month with a Big Band Dance Party, celebrating not only The PAC's 40th anniversary, but also the 25th anniversary of Jazz Studies at the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College.

This "double header" will take place on April 28 at 8pm and will feature the Purchase Jazz Orchestra with Jon Faddis conducting AND the Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra conducted by David DeJesus, plus The Renaissance Dance Ensemble directed by Ron Renaissance and vocalists Melissa Morgan (Vocal Jazz Performance / Jazz Studies, Purchase College, SUNY, MusB '02) and Maria Quintanilla (Vocal Jazz Performance / Jazz Studies, Purchase College, MM '17).

A free pre-concert talk with Jon Faddis and will take place at 7pm, and The PAC will be offering \$5 tickets for students, so keep an eye on your @purchase.edu email and The PAC's social media for on-sale dates and times.

For more info, check out [Events @ the PAC](#).