



September 24, 2018

To: The Faculty and Staff

From: Barry Pearson, Provost

Dear Colleagues:

There's not a lot of memorable fiction with a strategic plan as the protagonist. None of us relive stories in our imaginations about the rescue of an institution because, just in the nick of time, a plan showed up to save the day. And, clearly, no strategic plan has ever made anyone's top-ten, "must read" list.

But what if a grand "What if...?" has been missing? By that I mean, what if we, and hundreds of institutions like ours, haven't looked at the potential of a strategic plan to usher in positive change? More than intellectually or professionally, I think we sometimes fail to envision a future that has us feeling more fulfilled.

So, what if we could cultivate a sense of mission (and by that I mean a feeling of purpose) that is shared widely amongst us? To continue the "What if...?", what if that sense aroused in us a state of uniquely driven purpose?

Generically speaking, I think we understand our current mission. Uniquely speaking, however, I don't think it fully captures the special quality of Purchase coincidentally experienced by all of us. We know it's here. We see it in the work we do and how we do it. But what if we could capture our unique sense of purpose? Might we feel more fulfilled? More united?

I think being possessed with a uniquely driven purpose can move us from the isolation of "I-knowing" to a collective awareness of "we-sensing." Knowing what "I" do does not mean I feel a part of a greater whole. Yes, I know my job, and I can take satisfaction in doing it well, but sensing that I am a part of a greater purpose shared by many (the "we") is far more validating. The premise is that the more each of us feels a part of the "we," the stronger each of our commitments to the mission will be.

While I don't think this approach will be the inspiration of great fiction, I do think it can spark a more hopeful prospect for our work. And, just as in the telling of a great story, a compelling "What if...?" can inspire our thinking about the future.

Provost Office Reminders: Upcoming Award and Leave Application Deadlines

- [Junior Faculty Development Leaves](#): **October 1** (to your chair or director)
- [Sabbatical Leaves](#): **October 1** (to your chair or director)
- [Chancellor's Awards for Excellence](#): **November 13** is the deadline for peer review of [Adjunct Teaching](#) nominations. For all other categories, the deadline is **February 19, 2019**; the call for nominations will be issued by the respective peer review committee.
- [Faculty Support Awards](#): **November 1** (to your chair or director)
- [Part-Time Teaching Support Awards](#): **November 15** (to your chair or director)

For more information, including the leave application form and application deadlines in spring 2019, 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.

Global Strategy and International Programs:

Benin Festival September 27–29, 2018

Discover Benin from the past and today through film screenings, fine art exhibitions, musical performances, talks and panel discussions ranging from politics to social justice, literature to art. Purchase College hosts the inaugural [\(T\)HERE event](#), a three-day festival and conference to celebrate the culture and history of Benin, West Africa, and to introduce Purchase's new global initiatives.

Events will take place at The Performing Arts Center (PAC), the Neuberger Museum of Art, and other campus venues. All events will be open to the general public.

Natural and Social Sciences Lecture Series:

Tuesday, September 25th, 7:00pm

Jude M. Uy, Ph.D.

(Purchase Psychology '98)

Staff Psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator

Montclair State University

Location: Student Services Building, Red Room

[Suidology and Suicide Prevention in Higher Education](#)

Neuberger Museum Fall 2018 Opening Reception

[September Events](#)

Come join your colleagues, students, and friends from the community to celebrate the opening of the **Neuberger's fall 2018 season September 26, 2018**.

PAC 2018-19:

The PAC welcomes you back for another season of world-class performing arts!

You can look forward to seeing familiar favorites, but also a lot that's new, like compelling programming that crosses boundaries and blends genres. A great example — the **American String Quartet's** program on October 13, which will feature narration by novelist **Salman Rushdie**; the author's readings and the musical selections will play off of one another, making for a unique and thought-provoking evening. Another fall highlight will take place on October 26 when **Black Violin** takes the stage backed by our very own **Purchase Symphony Orchestra** and a select group of local high school musicians. A unique opportunity for our students and a lot of fun for audiences as well!

Other key features of the season include expanded cabaret, world music, and family programming, plus a wide range of on-campus residencies, student involvement, and special events like Artist Talks, master classes, and open rehearsals that will give our community the opportunity to more deeply engage with the artists and with one another.

Visit www.artscenter.org to learn more about what's in store, follow Purchase PAC on social media for the most up-to-date information, and be sure check your purchase.edu email inbox for event reminders and special offers exclusively for the campus community.