



January 20, 2016

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

Dear Colleagues:

Most obviously, of course, welcome back from what I hope was a wonderful winter break. I look forward to seeing all of you as we begin the spring semester.

In these *Notes*, I would like to provide an update on the college's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP). As you know, we submitted our plan at the end of October 2015 as required. On December 9, 2015, we received an email from the SUNY administration asking our campus to consider revisions in the areas of enrollment, retention, graduation, completions, and default rates. Peggy De Cooke, Betsy Robertson, and I, with the approval of President Schwarz, drafted a response, which was sent to [Elizabeth Bringsjord](#), SUNY's vice chancellor and vice provost for academic affairs. The final paragraph, included here, sums up the lengthier letter:

Dear Dr. Bringsjord:

In summary, in response to your questions:

- the first-year retention rate has been increased (from 82% to a best in sector rate of 90%);
- our graduation rate remains the proposed improved rate (to one point above the sector rate of 65%);
- our current enrollment targets reflect responsible leadership in face of historical trends; and, finally
- we agree that a lowered default rate to 5% in light of the recent data you provided makes more sense.

Influencing our response, as I'm sure you understand, is our commitment to shared campus governance. The timeline for submission of the PIP did not afford us the opportunity for campus discussions. Subsequent to its submission, however, we have held discussions with campus constituencies and developed goodwill around these improvement metrics. To now radically change or alter the PIP, without appropriate shared consultation, would undo efforts to galvanize the campus to improve performance.

On December 22, President Schwarz received a letter from [Alexander Cartwright](#), SUNY's provost and executive vice chancellor, notifying him that our plan was approved. I won't include the entire letter here, but the following excerpt sums up Provost Cartwright's response:

On behalf of Chancellor Zimpher, I am pleased to inform you that—consistent with the requirements of the 2015–16 budget legislation—your SUNY Excels Performance Improvement Plan has been approved.

I want to recognize the thoughtful work that went into the development of your campus plan, and especially want to thank you for your efforts to ensure that its preparation was collaborative and that the strategic priorities and goals identified are consistent with our commitment to continuous improvement under SUNY Excels.

The Improvement Plan will be important as we move forward to create a new campus strategic plan. It's also important to recognize that the chancellor's approval of the plan is a good first step in that process, as we continue to strengthen efforts to grow our student success initiatives.

2016–17 Junior Faculty Development Leave Awards

I am pleased to announce 10 recipients of the [Junior Faculty Development Leave Awards](#) for **2016–17**. Awardees are offered a semester's leave at full salary, during which they are released from all teaching and service obligations to the college. These awards are, in effect, internal fellowships that provide an opportunity for junior, untenured faculty to concentrate exclusively on advancing or completing an important professional or scholarly project. Please join me in congratulating them!

Michael Bell-Smith, New Media: Fall 2016 leave [*corrected after broadcast*]

Cédric Ceulemans, Economics: Fall 2016 leave

Donna Cornachio, Journalism: Fall 2016 leave

Anthony Domestico, Literature: Spring 2017 leave

Ager Gondra, Language and Culture: Spring 2017 leave

Yanine Hess, Psychology: Spring 2017 leave

Mark Jonas, Biology: Fall 2016 leave

Shruti Rajagopalan, Economics: Fall 2016–Spring 2017 leave (JFD and Title F)

Liza Steele, Sociology: Fall 2016–Spring 2017 leave (JFD and Title F)

Hakan Topol, New Media and Graphic Design: Spring 2017 leave

Upcoming Application/Nomination Deadlines

Please note the deadlines this semester for the following Purchase College faculty awards:

[2015–16 Emily and Eugene Grant Faculty Award](#): **February 10**

[2016–18 Kempner and 2016–17 Leff Senior Faculty Research Awards](#): **February 10**

[Summer 2016 Topol Faculty Development Awards](#): **February 10**

[Spring 2016 Faculty Support Awards](#): **March 1**

[Spring 2016 Part-Time Teaching Support Awards](#): **March 15**

[2016–18 Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts](#): **March 31**

Save the Dates!

- **Spring 2016 Campus Forum Sessions**
Wed., February 3, 3:30–5:30 p.m., in the Buffer: “Are We Making the Most of General Education?”
Wed., March 30: Time, location, and topic to be announced
Watch for your email invitations, which will include an RSVP link.
- **Spring 2016 Faculty Colloquium**
Wed., February 24, 4:30–6:30 p.m., in the Buffer
Presenters: [Mehdi Okasi](#) and [Alexis Maxine Silver](#)
Their topics will be included in your email invitation, which you will receive in early February.
- **2016 Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception**
Wed., April 27, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Library, Second Floor Reading Room
The call for materials will be emailed to the faculty in early February.

Purchase Film Series to Launch on February 4

The Performing Arts Center, in partnership with Purchase College, is launching a new film series in February. The [Purchase Film Series](#), curated by faculty in the School of Film and Media Studies, will bring the best in contemporary filmmaking to the PepsiCo Theatre, along with student film showcases and post-screening Q&As. This spring's theme is "Documentary Now!" and will include three screenings. Tickets for all events are \$5 for Purchase students, faculty, and staff:

Thurs., February 4, 7 p.m.: [Ivory Tower](#)

Wed., March 2, 7 p.m.: [The Iron Ministry](#)

Thurs., April 7, 7 p.m.: [Free Angela and All Political Prisoners](#)

Science in the Modern World Lecture

The School of Natural and Social Sciences is presenting three lectures this semester in its [Science in the Modern World Lecture Series](#). The first lecture is:

Using Science to Solve Crimes

Robert Adamo, MS, D-ABC

Director, Division of Forensic Sciences

Westchester County Department of Laboratories and Research

Tuesday, February 9, 7–8:30 p.m.

PepsiCo Theatre, Performing Arts Center

Robert Adamo will discuss how various scientific disciplines are used in aiding criminal investigations and solving crimes, along with several cases. He will also cover how science is used both in a laboratory setting and at a crime scene. The presentation will also examine the "CSI effect" and how it has played a role in the criminal justice system and the laboratory.

SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference: Student Applications Due February 5

[Applications](#) are due February 5 for students to present at the 2016 [SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference](#), to be held on April 15 at **SUNY Cobleskill**. The keynote speaker will be renowned cancer researcher [Jill Bargonetti](#), professor of biological sciences at Hunter College and a Purchase alumna ('85). If you have questions about the applications, please email surc@cobleskill.edu or [Linda Bastone](#), chair of the School of Natural and Social Sciences.

Upcoming Events: January–February

For the most current information on upcoming public events, please refer to the following calendars: [campus](#), [Neuberger Museum](#), [Performing Arts Center](#), or [School of the Arts: Spring 2016 Events](#). (Events and details may be added, changed, or deleted after an issue of *Notes* is prepared.)

Exhibitions on view:

Neuberger Museum of Art:

– [Liza Lou: Color Field and Solid Grey](#) (through Feb. 21)

– [After 1965: Art in a Time of Social Unrest](#) (through Mar. 13)

– *The Instant as Image: Moments of Action in Photography from the Permanent Collection* (Jan. 31–June 5)

– *Pursuit of Clarity: Adams, Van Dyke, Weston and the Straight Photography Movement* (Jan. 31–June 5)

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

– [Kimberly Winkle: Traces](#) (Jan. 20–Feb. 5), **opening reception: Wed., Jan. 20**, 5:30 p.m.

– [Physical Painting](#) (Feb. 16–Mar. 18), **opening reception: Wed., Feb. 17**, 4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Upper Lobby:
– [Who Owns the Sky?](#) (through January 31)

[Movement/Movements](#)

Wed., Jan. 20, 2:30 p.m.
Dance Building, Dance Theatre Lab

Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Mike Rossi

Wed., Jan. 20, 4:30 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

Gallery Conversation: Joshua Friend and Jonathan Binzen

Held in conjunction with the opening reception for the Kimberly Winkle: Traces exhibition

Wed., Jan. 20, 5:30 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery

[Chamber Music Society: Pianos/Pianists](#)

Sat., Jan. 23, 5 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

[National Theatre Live: Coriolanus](#)

Sun., Jan. 24, 2 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

[Conversation with Chris Wedge \('81\)](#)

Tues., Jan. 26, 8 p.m.
Humanities Theatre

[Rebirths and Transformations: Spirituality and the Art of Liza Lou](#)

Wed., Jan. 27, 12:30 p.m.
Neuberger Museum Study

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Doug Ashford](#)

Wed., Jan. 27, 4:30 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[One-Day Film Festival: The Apu Trilogy](#) (Satyajit Ray)

Afternoon reception hosted by Tandoori Taste of India

Sun., Jan. 31, 12:30–7 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[Orpheus: Khatia Buniatishvili](#)

Sun., Jan. 31, 3 p.m.
Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

Campus Forum Session: Are We Making the Most of General Education?

Wed., Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m.
Admissions Building, Buffer

Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Gina Beavers

Wed., Feb. 3, 4:30 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Film Screening and Q&A: Ivory Tower](#)

Purchase Film Series: Documentary Now!

Thurs., Feb. 4, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

Fri.–Sat., Feb. 5–6, 8 p.m.

Dance Building, Dance Theatre Lab

[Robert Adamo: Using Science to Solve Crimes](#)

Science in the Modern World Lecture

Tues., Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Dawn Clements

Wed., Feb. 10, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[On Power, Visibility, and Violence: A Dialog with Daniel Joseph Martinez and Steven Lam](#)

Thurs., Feb. 11, 4:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

[Purchase Repertory Theatre: Serious Money](#)

Fri., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 13, 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Wed.–Fri., Feb. 17–19, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 20, 1:30 & 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour](#)

Sat., Feb. 13, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

Sat., Feb. 13, 8 p.m.

Dance Building, Dance Theatre Lab

[National Theatre Live: Jane Eyre](#)

Sun., Feb. 14, 2 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Arts Materials Part I: Handmade—Craft, Material, and Skill in Contemporary Art](#)

Panel discussion

Wed., Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

Art Materials Part II: Beyond Oil on Canvas—Painting as Object

Panel discussion

Thurs., Feb. 18, 4:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra](#)

Fri., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

Fri.–Sat., Feb. 19–20, 8 p.m.

Dance Building, Dance Theatre Lab

[Martha Graham Dance Company](#)

Sat., Feb. 20, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

[Decoda](#)

Sun., Feb. 21, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall

Faculty Colloquium: Mehdi Okasi and Alexis Silver

Wed., Feb. 24, 4:30 p.m.

Admissions Building, Buffer

Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Mary Mattingly

Wed., Feb. 24, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[From Darkroom to Daylight: Film Screening and Book Signing with Harvey Wang](#)

Wed., Feb. 24, 6 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

[Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana](#)

Fri., Feb. 26, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

[BFA Senior Project Concert](#)

Fri.–Sat., Feb. 26–27, 8 p.m.

Dance Building, Dance Theatre Lab

[The Intergalactic Nemesis: Target Earth](#)

Sat., Feb. 27, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, PepsiCo Theatre

[Zuill Bailey](#)

Sun., Feb. 28, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall



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Notes From the Provost



