



January 21, 2015

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

Dear Colleagues:

Like so many documents of its kind, I'll bet your copy of our current [strategic plan](#) is dog-eared, highlighted, and filled with comments in the tattered margins. Well, laugh if you like, but mine is actually in that condition. As we begin the final year of our plan, I'd like to share some general thoughts about the opportunities that lie within reach of our next plan.

The challenges we face, clearly articulated in our current plan, will continue to require collaborative, campus-wide decision-making and assessment. We cannot maintain our measures of quality, address inadequate state support and competition for a shrinking number of students, and find varied revenue streams without a set of coordinated strategies. These circumstances clearly support the recommendation of an institutional effectiveness committee in the current governance proposal.

The current strategic plan, in my judgment, has forged linkages across the college and between systems that better operationalize institutional effectiveness. Admittedly, we have more to do to fully assess and improve that effectiveness, and many of the current strategic goals will form the basis for continued effort and assessment.

Given that we are better prepared to think strategically, however, what should the next strategic plan articulate? Should it continue to refine the current priorities and renew the institution's commitment on these same fronts? Or is it an opportunity to focus on our mission and give it greater expression for the 21st century?

In response to these questions, I would urge us to define in the next plan a catalyst that will promote cross-campus discourse and elevate the distinctiveness of the college. Rather than a plan with a large number of goals and objectives, I'd ask that we consider a plan that allows a unified effort with a singular focus—not to homogenize the schools or conservatories, but, rather, to strengthen a force within the college that will:

Direct our efforts to more fully realize the vision of Purchase College as a place recognized for shaping public discourse, because the pairing of conservatory programs with programs in the liberal arts is an irreplaceable catalyst for public engagement.

Central to our vision is a call to address how the pairing creates a distinct campus culture and education and to answer the central question: Why does it matter? By answering this question, we could:

- **Stimulate** strategic activity that invites creative innovation;
- **Grow** the diversity of the college community;
- **Continue** our efforts to inspire respect for diversity and difference across the campus;
- **Propel** the college forward as a leader in sustainable and green technologies;
- **Strengthen** shared governance; and, finally,
- **Ignite** a campus effort to celebrate why we matter to our students, each other, and the broader world.

These characteristics, for me, provide the essential ingredients of a plan that brings to life the “unique education that combines programs in the liberal arts with conservatory programs in the arts.” By suggesting a narrower focus, however, I know we cannot ignore the ongoing priorities that need redress. To think strategically in pursuit of our best interests, however, should ignite our collective imagination and set in motion actions that sharpen the college’s distinct character.

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## Save the Dates!

- **Spring 2015 Campus Forum Sessions**

A campus forum session on “**Liberal Studies and Its Future Role at Purchase**” will be held on **Wed., February 4, 4–6 p.m.**, in the Buffer (Admissions Building): Watch for your email invitation next week. The second campus forum session, “**So ... We Want Them to Be Better Writers, Do We?**,” will be held in the Buffer on **Wed., April 8, 3–5 p.m.**

- **Spring 2015 Faculty Colloquium**

The Spring 2015 Faculty Colloquium, featuring [Jakub Ciupiński](#) and [Shruti Rajagopalan](#), will be held on **Wed., March 18, 4:30–6 p.m.**, in the Buffer. Their topics will be included in your invitation, which you will receive via email in early March.

## Purchase College Faculty Awards

Application/nomination deadlines are approaching for the following Purchase College faculty awards:

[2014–15 Emily and Eugene Grant Faculty Award](#): **February 10**

[2015–17 Kempner and 2015–16 Leff Senior Faculty Research Awards](#): **February 10**

[Summer 2015 Topol Faculty Development Awards](#): **February 10**

[Spring 2015 Faculty Support Awards](#): **March 15**

[2015–17 Peter and Bette Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts](#): **March 31**

[Faculty Support Awards](#) are used to fund research, academic travel and conference presentations, artistic endeavors, or other comparable professional activity. Please join me in congratulating the **fall 2014 recipients**:

**Karen Baird**, Political Science  
**Linda Bastone**, Psychology  
**Michael Bell-Smith**, New Media  
**Leandro Benmergui**, History  
**Stephen Buck**, Music Theory and Keyboard Studies  
**Jakub Ciupiński**, Studio Composition  
**Anthony Domestico**, Literature  
**Stella Ebner**, Printmaking  
**Geoffrey Field**, History  
**Kate Gilmore**, Sculpture  
**Ager Gondra-Astigarraga**, Language and Culture  
**Yanine Hess**, Psychology  
**Cassandra Hooper**, Printmaking  
**Mark Jonas**, Biology  
**David Kim**, Anthropology  
**Mary Kosut**, Media, Society, and the Arts  
**Julian Kreimer**, Painting and Drawing  
**Elise Lemire**, Literature  
**Susan Letcher**, Environmental Studies  
**Cynthia Lin**, Painting and Drawing

**Lisa Jean Moore**, Sociology/Gender Studies  
**Lenka Pichlíková**, Theatre and Performance  
**Jason Pine**, Media, Society, and the Arts  
**Lorraine Plourde**, Media, Society, and the Arts  
**Kristine Potter**, Photography  
**Pamela Prather**, Acting  
**Shruti Rajagopalan**, Economics  
**Diana Reinhard**, History  
**Christopher Robbins**, Sculpture  
**Huang Ruo**, Music Composition  
**Paul Siegel**, Psychology  
**Alexis Silver**, Sociology  
**Brooke Singer**, New Media  
**Michelle Stewart**, Cinema Studies  
**Michael Taub**, Liberal Studies  
**Aviva Taubenfeld**, Literature/Writing  
**Hakan Topal**, New Media/Graphic Design  
**Gary Waller**, Literature  
**Joshua Willis**, Art+Design Foundations  
**Louise Yelin**, Literature

## Update on Student Engagement Grants

The Academic Resource Center will be continuing its Student Engagement Grant program this spring. This grant program has funded numerous cross-disciplinary events and allowed faculty to foster learning experiences for their students outside the classroom. Highlights from the **fall 2014 awards cycle** include:

- **Charlotte Glynn** took her Film Workshop students to the Performing Arts Center to see the Czech Philharmonic. The goal of this event was to strengthen this community of students by attending a cultural event outside the classroom and to support course objectives by experiencing the work of other artists.
- **Amy Beth Schneider** hosted another successful event, “Primary Sources: A College Writing Coffeehouse.” Funds were used to purchase beverages and snacks for students in her College Writing section. These students shared excerpts from their personal or analytical essays, which were inspired by the theme of risk—personal, creative, artistic, or analytical. Some students shared their work aloud, while others displayed visual art or self-produced films.
- **Joe McKay** received a grant to take students in his Introduction to Physical Computing course to the [Maker Faire New York](#). The “Maker” community is a group of tinkerers, artists, and activists who share their gadgets and inventions at this extraordinary event. Students were encouraged to think creatively about technology and mingle with the exhibitors.

Applications are still being accepted for the Student Engagement Grant. Interested applicants should review the [guidelines and application](#), available on the Advising Center’s website. Please submit completed applications to Ryan Homsey ([ryan.homsey@purchase.edu](mailto:ryan.homsey@purchase.edu), ext. 3998).

## Purchase Awarded \$210,000 for ASD Support Services

The [FAR Fund](#) in New York City has renewed its support of our autism spectrum disorders (ASD) program, which provides support services for Purchase students who are on the autism spectrum. The **three-year renewal grant** totals **\$210,000** (\$70,000 per year). Congratulations to the principal investigator, **Lauren Greiner**, the staff psychologist in the Counseling Center’s supported education program, and to **Ed Herran** in the Office of Sponsored Funds!

The ASD program assists students in navigating the complex academic, social, and independent-living challenges that arise in college. Services include individual counseling/coaching, a weekly social skills support group, peer mentoring by juniors and seniors, and social events. Over the next three years, the program will focus more on career development, and on staff and faculty education. With its renewal, the grant now incorporates funding for new programming, including a career preparation workshop, a summer orientation, and a conference featuring a speaker who will address the specialized needs of college students with autism.

## Science in the Modern World Spring 2015 Lecture Series

The School of Natural and Social Sciences is presenting three lectures this spring, sponsored in part by the Friends of Natural and Social Sciences and Sigma XI. **Each lecture begins at 7 p.m.** in the Performing Arts Center’s **Pepsico Theatre** and is free and open to the public.

### Sensitivity to Chronic Smoking

[Lisa Dierker](#), PhD

*Chair and Professor of Psychology, Wesleyan University*

**Tuesday, February 10**

**Cancer and Pollution: Connecting the Dots in Toms River and Beyond**

[Daniel Fagin](#), Winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction

*Professor of Science Journalism and*

*Director of the Health and Environmental Reporting Program, New York University*

**Tuesday, March 10**

**What Can We Learn About Breast Cancer by Combining Mathematics and Computer Science in a Systems Biology Approach to Research?**

[Robert Clarke](#), PhD, DSc

*Professor and Dean of Research, Georgetown University Medical Center*

**Tuesday, April 7**

**Upcoming Events: January–February**

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

*Exhibitions on view:*

**Neuberger Museum of Art:**

- [When Modern was Contemporary: The Roy R. Neuberger Collection](#) (extended through Mar. 15)
- [Becoming Disfarmer](#) (through Mar. 22)

**Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:**

- [Stephen Yusko: Transformations](#)

*Windgate Artist in Residence* (Jan. 21–Feb. 6)

**Opening reception: Jan. 22**, 4:30–6 p.m.

[Suzanne McClelland: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)

**Wed., Jan. 21**, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Cameron Carpenter](#)

**Sat., Jan. 24**, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Talk Cinema](#)

**Tues., Jan. 27**, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Jason Schneider: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)

**Wed., Jan. 28**, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[The Knights with Béla Fleck](#)

**Sat., Jan. 31**, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[David Mamet's A Life in the Theatre](#)

**Tues., Feb. 3**, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

**Fri.–Sat., Feb. 6–7**, 8 p.m.

Dance Theatre Lab

[The Green Bird](#)

*Purchase Repertory Theatre*

**Fri., Feb. 6 & 13**, 7:30 p.m.

**Sat., Feb. 7 & 14**, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.

**Wed.–Thurs., Feb. 11–12**, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Lisa Dierker: Sensitivity to Chronic Smoking](#)

*Science in the Modern World Lecture Series*

**Tues., Feb. 10**, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Angela Strassheim: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)

**Wed., Feb. 11**, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

**Fri.–Sat., Feb. 13–14**, 8 p.m.

Dance Theatre Lab

[Midori](#)

**Sat., Feb. 14**, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Decoda](#)

**Sun., Feb. 15**, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Orit Hofshi: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)

**Wed., Feb. 18**, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Purchase Orchestra Electric!](#)

**Fri., Feb. 20**, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

**Fri.–Sat., Feb. 20–21**, 8 p.m.

Dance Theatre Lab

[Afternoon Music](#)

**Mon., Feb. 23**, 12:20 p.m.

Music Building, Room 1001

[Talk Cinema](#)

**Tues., Feb. 24**, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Dona Nelson: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)

**Wed., Feb. 25,** 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[BFA Senior Project Dance Concert](#)

**Fri.–Sat., Feb. 27–28,** 8 p.m.

Dance Theatre Lab

[Paul Taylor Dance Company](#)

**Sat., Feb. 28,** 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center