



March 12, 2021

Dear Colleagues;

In all its diverse manifestations, no matter the context, before it has ended the pandemic will have caused a scale of heartbreak that only an unknowable interval of time and unchecked amounts of reflection will be able to discover. Such exhumation will require, most importantly, that artists, scholars, and researchers carefully unearth—as only they can—the pandemic’s visible effects and hidden experiences within the interiority of human existence.

Undoubtedly, helping our students will be our focus in these endeavors. Consider for a moment that many suggest that today’s college students will spend a good portion of their adult lives overcoming the setbacks caused by the pandemic. We fear this prospect instinctively at Purchase because we know how many students struggle to make ends meet, while also striving to complete their degrees. From weekend jobs to difficult commutes to loan debt—we see it all. But we know that by helping them to overleap these setbacks and recover, that we can reacquire our equilibrium as a community.

Comprehending the dizzying scale of the pandemic will be difficult for us. It will be some time before we collectively grasp its full impact. Much like a climate event—a hurricane, tornado, or flood—you have to climb to a great height to see and realize the full picture of destruction. In human terms, though, we will especially need time to reflect. And I think therein lies the importance of our physical return to campus: the need for time and space to reflect in the presence of each other, to be heard as well as feel we are being heard.

Simply, our campus will be for everyone—students, faculty, and staff—the very space needed for talking, thinking, and writing about the time we will have just lived through. And it can provide the setting for processing all the narratives of the pandemic, which will, in turn, revive the life and purpose of our campus. Once it is safe to return, our very congregating will reawaken in us our reason for being on this campus, in the presence of each other. It will also enable us to celebrate our resiliency during the pandemic.

I trust that place and purpose are intertwined and inseparable. Our campus is home to a community in dialogue. And it’s this very dialogue that brings about the creation of knowledge—be it in the form of a sculpture, play, or research paper. The work we do, especially the work with students, is intimately tied to their sense of our campus as the location for that work and where it must be processed and reconsidered. For all of us, if not at Purchase, then where?

It is especially timely given the Middle States self-study and our work on the strategic plan to renew our understanding of we do that makes Purchase, Purchase. We will realize that we are more than a loose assortment of functions digitally bound in remote and transactional delivery. Instead, we will deepen our understanding of our community as one dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and insight, the character of which is distinct and transformational. For this reason, and many more, I look forward to our community’s return to campus and being together to reawaken our sense of purpose in this place.

## Upcoming Spring Award Deadlines

[Jewish Studies Faculty Award](#) March 30, 2021

## Art+Design

Visiting Artist Lectures:

March 17 [SV Randal](#)

March 24 [EJ Hill](#)

April 7 [Yevgeniya Baras](#)

## Film & Media Studies

The School of Film & Media Studies will host this year's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SUNYwide Film Festival on April 9-10, 2021. The full schedule and films are available at [sunywidefilmfestival.com](http://sunywidefilmfestival.com). The films will be available to watch in the festival site starting April 9. Students living on campus are welcome to watch the films in four different venues at Purchase. Details on pre-registration coming very soon! Check out the link to the [festival trailer](#).

## Global Education

Our Office of International Programs and Services has changed its name to **Office for Global Education** (OGE), in a commitment in supporting the college in global learning. Please explore their [updated and expanded web pages](#), where you can find information and resources for faculty, staff, prospective and current students, as well as alumni.

In addition, Purchase College has officially joined the [University Global Coalition](#) (UGC). The UGC enlists globally engaged colleges and universities to work in partnership for a more sustainable future, with a focus on the UN's 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG). To learn more, please [click here](#).

### [Fulbright Student Program](#)

We would also like to wish the best of luck to our Purchase College 2021-2022 Fulbright Semi-Finalists, William Byram (Dance, '21) and Caleb Dowden (Dance, '21), we will hear in the coming months whether they will receive the award.

## Natural and Social Science

Lecture Series talks:

**March 16:** [Dr. Sara Perl Egendorf \(Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability\), "Just Soil: constructing urban soils to address systemic environmental and climate injustices"](#).

**April 7:** [Mary Edwards Memorial Lecture- Black Girl in Triptych: Storying Black Life and Research](#)

## **Neuberger Museum**

[www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org)

The Museum is welcoming classes back in the galleries, both in person and virtually. For more information and/or to schedule a visit, please contact [Kristen Lindberg](#) at least one week in advance of the day you would like to visit and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Please join us on **March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm** for **Wellness Wednesday: Guided Meditation**.

Renew your mind, body, and spirit with meditation and yoga instructor Janelle Berger. The session begins with a meditation using crystal singing bowls followed by a community conversation. [Registration link](#)

## **Performing Arts Center**

Dance Returns to The PAC

We all know that The PAC has a reputation for presenting innovative and extraordinary dance. This spring they continue to introduce our campus and the community to dancers and choreographers who are doing remarkable work....virtually.

Thanks to support from ArtsWestchester, The PAC is presenting three "virtual watch parties" with Limon Dance Company, Victor Quijada's RUBBERBAND, and Dance Heginbotham.

The events feature pre-recorded performances and live Q&As. The first, with Limon Dance, was watched by over 200 dance fans. The next, on March 26, will feature a screening of RUBBERBAND's dance-on-film *Gravity of Center*.

As part of The PAC's ongoing commitment to providing learning and engagement opportunities for students, each event also has a residency component. Students in the Conservatory of Dance are able to participate in master classes with company members, which this season focus on how dancers can continue to create and perform despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Visit The PAC website [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org) and follow @PurchasePAC on social media to learn more about Dance 2021 and other programs.