



April 11, 2016

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

Dear Colleagues:

Here's a quick story for laughs. My tale starts when the gentleman seated next to me, with whom I'd been chatting, says, "Four years and a college degree, in this 50-cent world, will get you a minimum-wage job." And it was at that point that my lunch took an odd turn.

There's a longer lead-in to his opening line. The upshot, though, is that the fuller narrative involves me on a saddle (but not on a horse), eating lunch in the middle of a place called Tortillas Flats. The saddle stool, as I've come to call it, was the only choice at the bar in the only eatery in Flats, Arizona.

There's nothing like sitting astride a trusty steed tethered to a bar to bring out the western bravado in people. So, as I straddled the saddle, my feet in the stirrups, trying to decide between the Cactus Cutlet, Tempe Tacos, or Rawhide Reuben, I was struck uneasy by the bearded fellow's contention that a college education is meaningless in this era of depressed wages. I realized that many in the eatery, who also bestrode horsey-themed bar poles, probably shared this same equine-influenced notion. As I sat and ate my lunch, opting for the Desert Sand Salad, I realized that it does feel more and more these days that there is less regard for the promise of a college education than in the past.

Maybe this skepticism has always been there, and I've been slow to recognize it; or maybe Allan Bloom is right: the American mind has finally closed. Whatever the case, the saddle-induced, gun-slinging bravado of my fellow bronco-riding barfly seems more widespread than ever. Then again, maybe he sits on the mount of a perfect metaphor in the highly charged political landscape affecting education today: men astride their saddle stools, hoisted upon imagined steeds envisioned in their own epic hero-play, madly slapping their legs as they flail the air, chasing the dirty educators attempting to make off with the taxpayers' money—all the while hiding their own diplomas from Yale and Harvard. Pour me another tumbleweed polemic, barkeep! And Giddy Up!

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### Purchase College Faculty Award Recipients

I am pleased to announce the recipients of several Purchase College faculty awards. Please join me in congratulating them!

- [2015–16 Emily and Eugene Grant Faculty Award](#)  
This award provides each recipient with \$2,500 to subsidize research, performances, exhibitions, conferences, travel, and/or recital expenses. The 2015–16 recipient is **Robert Swainston** (Printmaking).
- [Summer 2016 Dee and Robert Topol Faculty Development Award](#)  
This award provides recipients with a summer stipend of \$3,000 to help defray the costs of writing a grant, developing a new course, or significantly redesigning an existing course. The recipient for Summer 2016 is **Suzanne Clerkin** (Psychology).

- [2016–17 Juanita and Joseph Leff Senior Faculty Research Award](#)  
This award provides \$5,000 over one year to subsidize research, performances, exhibitions, conferences, travel, and/or recital expenses. During this year, the selected faculty member carries the title of Juanita and Joseph Leff Distinguished Professor. The Juanita and Joseph Leff Distinguished Professor for 2016–17 is **Joseph McKay** (New Media).
- [2016–18 Doris and Carl Kempner Senior Faculty Research Award](#)  
This award provides \$5,000 over two years to subsidize research, performances, exhibitions, conferences, travel, and/or recital expenses. During these two years, the selected faculty member carries the title of Doris and Carl Kempner Distinguished Professor. The Doris and Carl Kempner Distinguished Professor for 2016–18 is **Shaka McGlotten** (Media, Society, and the Arts).

Given the restrictions of state funding, we are deeply grateful for our donors' generosity in providing this essential support. Special thanks are also due to the Faculty Professional Standards and Awards Committee for evaluating and providing recommendations for each award.

Winners of the **2016–18 Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts** and the **Spring 2016 Faculty Support Awards** will be announced in the May issue of *Notes*.

## Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception: Save the Date!

- **Wed., April 27, 4:30–6:30 p.m.:** Formal remarks at 5 p.m.  
**Library, Second Floor Reading Room**  
*Watch for your email invitation this week, which will include an RSVP link.*

## A New Home for Playwriting and Screenwriting in Fall 2016

In the fall of 2012, the **playwriting and screenwriting** program was launched, with a major and two minors. At the time the program was designed, it was not clear how many students would be interested in the full major, and so two minors were included, in playwriting and in screenwriting. In practice, the program has also been administered in two academic units: playwriting in the Conservatory of Theatre Arts and screenwriting in the School of Film and Media Studies.

Since its debut, the BA major has grown to 138 students, in addition to those pursuing the minors. This success—due in large part to the program's devoted co-coordinators, **Christina Anderson** and **Dean Bell**—argues for it being given a single home. As of the fall 2016 semester, I am pleased to announce that the program's administration will be centralized in the School of Film and Media Studies (FMS), under the leadership of the FMS chair. By its nature, the playwriting and screenwriting program will also continue to have important creative synergies with such programs as theatre and performance, acting, theatre design/technology, graphic design, and creative writing.

## Meet the Next Generation of Leading Dance Artists This Weekend

Dance aficionados won't want to miss the Conservatory of Dance's [Spring 2016 concert series](#), presented by the **Purchase Dance Company** on **April 15–17** at the **Performing Arts Center**. To kick off the series, a **preconcert talk** featuring several of the artists will be held on April 15 at 7:15 p.m. and moderated by **Darrah Carr**, visiting assistant professor of dance.

The program features excerpts from Martha Graham's riveting antiwar statement, [Chronicle](#) (1936)—a stirring response to the rise of fascism, set to music by Wallingford Riegger. George Balanchine's [The Four Temperaments](#) (1946) is another highlight of the program. The ballet's four movements reflect the medieval belief that human beings are made up of four different humors that determine a person's temperament. Set to

music by Paul Hindemith, *The Four Temperaments* is emblematic of Balanchine's bold neoclassical aesthetic. [Kyle Abraham](#) ('00), a Bessie Award-winning choreographer and 2013 MacArthur Fellow, will present [Counterpoint](#) (2015), a virtuosic work with a dichotomous score mixing Johannes Brahms and electronic music. Finally, groundbreaking Brooklyn-based dance artist [Alexandra Beller](#), whose work stands on the edge between dance and theatre, will present *as it were, it is. applause*, a new piece commissioned for the Purchase Dance Company.

In a special tribute to **Kazuko Hirabayashi**, two of her works will be presented during the Spring 2016 concert series: [Hibernation](#) (1982) will be performed at the 8 p.m. concert on **April 15** by [Daniel Madoff](#) ('06), formerly of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company; [Song of Sorrows](#) (1985, revival 2008) will be performed by **Hannah Button** ('13) at the 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. concerts on **April 16**. The latter work was originally choreographed for **Sarah Stackhouse**, associate professor emerita of dance and a principal dancer in the José Limón Company from 1958 to 1969.

## 24/5 and Finals Countdown at the Library

The Library will be open 24/5 **beginning Monday, April 25**, until the end of the semester. During 24/5, the Library will be open continuously from Sunday at noon until Friday at midnight, closing at midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. During this time, the Library asks for your help in respecting the Silent, Quiet, and Group Study Zones and keeping the Library a calm, quiet environment for everyone who is studying. Please refer to the Library's published [hours](#) and [noise policies](#) for details.

The Library will once again host its popular [Finals Countdown](#) events from **April 27 through May 4**—a series of fun, relaxing “study break” activities to help students, faculty, and staff de-stress and re-energize. Events will include therapy dogs, cheese tasting (co-sponsored by the Purchase Cheese Club), tea time, button-making, adult coloring, board games, sending postcards, creating stress balls, and more. Watch your email and the Library's [Facebook page](#) for a full schedule of Finals Countdown events, to be shared later this month.

## Natural and Social Sciences 35th Annual Student Research Symposium

The School of Natural and Social Sciences will be presenting its 35th annual Student Research Symposium on **Saturday, April 30**, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., in the Natural and Social Sciences Buildings. This symposium represents the best of the science programs offered at Purchase, with undergraduates reporting on the intensive, yearlong research they have conducted with members of the faculty. This event is unique because it allows undergraduates to report on their research in the same way that scientists at major research laboratories do at national conferences. At larger research universities, students rarely have this valuable opportunity.

## James Undercofler to Moderate a Boston Pops Post-Show Discussion on May 1

The Performing Arts Center invites you to a post-show discussion, immediately following the 3 p.m. [Boston Pops performance](#) on **Sunday, May 1**, with conductor **Keith Lockhart** and soloist **Charlie Albright**, moderated by **James Undercofler**, interim director of the Conservatory of Music and former president and CEO of the Philadelphia Orchestra. This discussion is free with a concert ticket; discounted concert tickets are available for Purchase College students (50%, and \$5 rush when available), faculty and staff (\$25).

## Upcoming Events: April–May

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

*Exhibitions on view:*

**Neuberger Museum of Art:**

- [The Instant as Image: Moments of Action in Photography from the Permanent Collection](#) (through June 5)
- [Pursuit of Clarity: Adams, Van Dyke, Weston and the Straight Photography Movement](#) (through June 5)
- **Landed: Surveying New Geographies** (through June 5)
- [Louise Fishman: A Retrospective](#) (through July 31)

**Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:**

- [Accidents into Incidents | 2016 MFA Thesis Exhibition Series:](#)  
Michael Barraco, Lydia Golbeck, Sarah Hewitt, Owen Hunter (through April 13)  
Teke Cocina, Eleanor King, Dustina Sherbine, Phumelele Tshabalala (April 18–29)

**Performing Arts Center, Upper Lobby:**

- [Interpretations](#) (through May 13)

**P4 Yonkers:**

- [Interposed](#) (through April 13)

**Momenta Gallery, Brooklyn:**

- [Accidents into Incidents | 2016 MFA Thesis Exhibition Series:](#)  
Michael Barraco, Teke Cocina, Lydia Goldbeck, Sarah Hewitt, Owen Hunter, Eleanor King, Dustina Sherbine, Phumelele Tshabalala (May 6–15)

[Idith Meshulam Korman](#)

*A Piano Concert Inspired by Louise Fishman*

**Wed., April 13, 12:30 p.m.**

Neuberger Museum Study

[Dylan Gauthier Workshop: Making Social Spaces/Making Spaces Social](#)

**Wed., April 13, 3:30 p.m.**

PC4 Yonkers

[Aminatta Forna: A Reading and Conversation](#)

*Durst Distinguished Lecture Series*

**Wed., April 13, 4:30 p.m.**

Neuberger Museum Study

[Visiting Artist Lecture: Sarah Oppenheimer](#)

**Wed., April 13, 4:30 p.m.**

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

**Third Annual Autism Acceptance Panel and Talent Showcase**

**Wed., April 13, 5:30 p.m.**

Natural Sciences Building, Room 1001

[House of Spirits](#)

*Theatre and Performance Production*

**Thurs.–Fri, April 14–15, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sat., April 16, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Contemporary Ensemble: Two Contemporary Classics](#)

**Thurs., April 14,** 8 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[The Coast of Utopia: Voyage](#)

*Purchase Repertory Theatre*

**Fri., April 15,** 7:30 p.m.

**Sat., April 16 & 23,** 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**Wed.–Fri., April 20–22,** 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra](#)

**Fri., April 15,** 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Dance Company Spring Concert](#)

**Fri., April 15,** 8 p.m.

**Sat., April 16,** 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

**Sun., April 17,** 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Clifford the Big Red Dog Live!](#)

**Sat., April 16,** 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Robin Spielberg](#)

**Sat., April 16,** 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Manohla Dargis: Reflections on a Life in Film Criticism](#)

*The 2016 Mary Edwards Memorial Lecture*

**Mon., April 18,** 4:30 p.m.

Student Services Building, Red Room

[Backstage Legends and Masters Honors the Memory of Pete Feller Sr.](#)

**Mon., April 18,** 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Jazz Orchestra at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola](#)

**Mon., April 18,** 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Jazz at Lincoln Center

New York City

[Student Chamber Music](#)

**Tues., April 19,** 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Spring Writers' Festival: Literary Debuts](#)

*Presented by the Creative Writing Program*

**Tues., April 19,** 6 p.m.: **Opening reception and readings**

Library, Second Floor Reading Room

**Wed., April 20,** 4:30 p.m.: **Kaitlyn Greenidge** and **Mia Alva**, reading and conversation

Neuberger Museum Study

**Thurs., April 21, 2:30 p.m.:** **Sophie McManus**, craft talk and conversation

Humanities Building, Room 2059

**Thurs., April 21, 4 p.m.:** **Sophie McManus**, reading and Q&A

Neuberger Museum Study

[Visiting Artist Lecture: Tamara Shopsin](#)

**Wed., April 20, 4:30 p.m.**

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

**Environmental Forum on Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Wed., April 20, 4:30 p.m.**

Student Services Building, Red Room

[International Earth Day Symposium: Water and Class Struggle](#)

*Panel moderator: Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Emily and Eugene Grant Distinguished Scholar*

**Fri., April 22, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.**

[RSVP](#) to attend the lunch (12:30–1:30 p.m.)

Neuberger Museum Study

[National Theatre Live: As You Like It](#)

**Sun., April 24, 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

[Soul Voices: The Creation](#)

**Tues., April 26, 7 p.m.**

Music Building, Recital Hall

**Faculty Achievement Recognition Reception**

**Wed., April 27, 4:30 p.m.**

Library, Second Floor Reading Room

**Visiting Artist Lecture: Doug Dubois and Dana Lixenberg**

**Wed., April 27, 4:30 p.m.**

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Louise Fishman Study Day](#)

**Wed., April 27, 5 p.m.**

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra](#)

**Wed., April 27, 8 p.m.**

Music Building, Choral Hall

**UUP End-of-the-Year Membership Reception**

**Thurs., April 28, 4:30–6 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center, Upper Lobby

[Purchase Jazz Orchestra](#)

**Thurs., April 28, 7 p.m.**

Music Building, Choral Hall

[Purchase String Orchestra](#)

**Fri., April 29**, 7 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

**35th Annual Student Research Symposium**

**Sat., April 30**, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Natural and Social Sciences Buildings

[John Pizzarelli and Ramsey Lewis](#)

**Sat., April 30**, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Sunday Faculty Salon Series](#)

*Chamber music performed by Conservatory of Music faculty*

**Sun., May 1**, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra](#)

**Sun., May 1**, 3 p.m.

*Post-show discussion immediately following the concert*

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Chorus: Let Evening Come](#)

**Mon., May 2**, 7:30 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Purchase New Music](#)

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

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Final Exam Week](#)

**Wed.–Tues., May 4–10**

[Purchase Orchestra–Electric!](#)

**Wed., May 4**, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

**34th Annual Student Awards Ceremony**

*Faculty guest speaker: Lisa Jean Moore*

**Thurs., May 5**, 4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center](#)

**Sat., May 7**, 5 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Opera at the Cinema: Die Zauberflöte](#)

**Sun., May 8**, 2 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

**Seniors Week**

Check the [Commencement site](#) for details (coming soon)

**Mon.–Thurs., May 9–12**

**Last Day of Spring 2016 Classes**

**Tues., May 10**

**22nd Annual Senior Project Processional**

**Tues., May 10, 4 p.m.**

Southside to the Library

*Followed by a party at 5 p.m. for participating seniors, faculty, and staff*

**School of the Arts Student Awards Dinner**

**Wed., May 11, 5 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

**Seniors Champagne Brunch**

**Thurs., May 12, 11:30 a.m.**

Dining Hall

[44th Annual Commencement](#)

**Fri., May 13:** The procession begins at 12:30 p.m.

Check-in: 10:30–11 a.m.

Westchester County Center

198 Central Avenue, White Plains

[Summer Session I begins](#) (100% online)

**Mon., May 23** (through June 10)



