



April 13, 2015

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

Dear Colleagues:

We are a campus whose motto is “Think Wide Open.” Each word, taken on its own, calls us to action as we take up the campus conversation about race, diversity, and justice.

The word “think” calls us to a particularly important action. It is by thinking critically as faculty, students, and staff that we must first engage conversations about race and diversity.

The word “wide” is equally important because it calls on us to be expansive in our thinking. Even more, the word calls on us to inquire deeply as we consider equity, access, and the forces that breed hatred or seek to keep opportunity exclusive.

Finally, the word “open.” Openness is the very state we desire. It fosters humility, which allows thoughtful engagement to occur and justice to advance. And it is by being open—open to one another and to those whose life experiences are different—that we collectively and individually advance.

As I said in the recap of the March 25 community forum, published on March 27, “While our mission embraces diversity and inclusiveness, it is apparent we have more to do to fulfill this promise.”

How, then, do we make good on the promise? Values go unfulfilled if they are not lived, celebrated, and passed on to newcomers in the community. What follows, in response to President Schwarz’s call for specific next steps, are the projects that will be my focus in the next three months to bring more intense life to these values.

Continued development of the First-Year Experience will center on efforts to strengthen skills that develop respect and tolerance among all new first-year students. Especially important in this effort will be designing ways in which students can learn and demonstrate the very thinking that enables them to navigate a “wide open” community, in and out of the classroom. A redesigned First-Year Seminar will be a central anchor in this effort, which will mean development of instructors’ ability to facilitate the “think open” ability of our students. An online Moodle-based tool to engage students in Purchase values (“Purchase 101”) will be designed as a preliminary tutorial of sorts for students before they arrive on campus. Faculty members have asked for support so they can lead conversations about race, diversity, and bias. In response, working with experts in the field, workshops and programs for faculty will be developed for use in the fall.

These are only the first steps. Others, which will take longer, will involve programming at the Neuberger Museum of Art and the Performing Arts Center, as well as faculty leaders across the campus. We will continue our work to aggressively recruit, hire, and retain faculty of color. All of these efforts keep us alive in our core values and create the Purchase that thinks wide and remains open.

Purchase College Faculty Award Recipients

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

- [2014–15 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 2014–15 recipients are **Lee Ehrman** (Biology), [Suzanne Farrin](#) (Music), **Paula Halperin** (History), [Paul Kaplan](#) (Art History), and **Maryann McEnroe** (Biology).
- [Dee and Robert Topol Summer 2015 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 recipients for Summer 2015 are [Michael Bell-Smith](#) (New Media), **Yanine Hess** (Psychology), [Chrys Ingraham](#) (Sociology), **Robin Lynch** (Graphic Design), and joint recipients **Rachel Owens**, [Christopher Robbins](#), and [Raphael Zollinger](#) (Sculpture).
- [2015–16 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 2015–16 is [Brooke Singer](#) (New Media).
- [2015–17 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 2015–17 is [Lisa Jean Moore](#) (Sociology and Gender Studies).

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 **2015–17 Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts** and the **Spring 2015 Faculty Support Awards** will be announced in the May issue of *Notes*.

Student Engagement Grants

The Academic Resource Center is continuing its efforts to fund extracurricular and interdisciplinary events through the Student Engagement Grant, with generous funding provided by the Purchase College Association (PCA). **Applications are still being accepted** for end-of-semester events and activities. Interested applicants should review the [grant guidelines and application](#), which are also available on the Advising Center's [website](#). Please submit completed applications to **Ryan Homsey**, director of the Academic Resource Center (ryan.homsey@purchase.edu, ext. 3998).

Here are some highlights from the spring 2015 awards cycle:

- **Lorraine Miller** took cinema studies students to the [2015 Athena Film Festival](#), a celebration of women and leadership held in New York City at Barnard College. Students were able to discuss the importance of women and leadership, both on and off screen, while sharing their love of film. They were also able to network with film students from other schools, such as Rutgers and Princeton.
- **Louise Yelin** hosted a Write-In, an informal marathon writing session for students interested in writing in any and all forms. Students were able to work on their own projects or papers, share their pieces, and

workshop their pieces with [Purchase Writers Center fellows](#). Students engaged with each other and had an earnest and candid conversation about the writer's duty to fact vs. feeling.

- **Ryan Homsey** worked alongside **Jordan Schildcrout** to bring 35 students across six academic programs to see a devised multimedia production, [The Orpheus Variations](#), produced by the Deconstructive Theatre Project at the 14th Street Y in New York City. Homsey composed the music for the production and played in the live ensemble, which included guitarist and studio composition student Darryl Rahn ('15). One student commented, "It was a beautiful piece that started turning my creative gears, and the use of live sound and film was entirely new to me."

Upcoming Events: April–May

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:

- [Kuba Textiles: Geometry in Form, Space, and Time](#) (through June 14)
- [Plastic: Art in an Era of Material Innovation](#) (May 9–July 12)

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery / Moment Gallery, Brooklyn:

- [All Cats Are Gray in the Dark: MFA Thesis Exhibition Series](#)
 - Exhibition 1/Maass Gallery: through April 15
 - Exhibition 2/Maass Gallery: April 20–24; opening reception Thurs., April 23, 4:30 p.m.
 - Exhibition 3/Momenta Gallery: May 1–17; opening reception Fri., May 1, 7 p.m.;
video screening with Elizabeth Knowlton, Fri., May 8, 7 p.m.
- **Senior Thesis Exhibition**, Maass Gallery (May 9–13; opening reception Sat., May 9, 2 p.m.)

[Rebecca Jordan-Young: Dispatches from the Neurogenderings Network](#)

2015 Mary Edwards Memorial Lecture

Mon., April 13, 4:30 p.m.

Student Services Building, Red Room

[Purchase Jazz Orchestra @ The Blue Note](#)

Directed by Todd Coolman, with special guest Terrell Stafford

Mon., April 13, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

131 W. 3rd St., New York City

[Anthony Domestico: James Joyce's "Eveline" and "A Painful Case"](#)

Friends of Humanities Lecture Series

Tues., April 14, 3 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

Visiting Poet Series: [Lillian-Yvonne Bertram](#)

Tues., April 14, 6:30 p.m.

Student Services Building, Red Room

[Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema](#)

Tues., April 14, 7 p.m.

The Performing Arts Center

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Carlos Motta](#)

Wed., April 15, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Cowgirl Up: Nancy Davidson, Make Your Own Path](#)

Discussion and book signing

Thurs., April 16, 4:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

[Adriana Weislander: Talking to Children Matters](#)

Purchase Psi Chi Lecture

Thurs., April 16, 6:30 p.m.

Natural Sciences Building, Room 1029

[Theatre Decomposed](#)

Thurs.–Fri., April 16–17, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 18, 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Percussion Ensemble](#)

Purchase Contemporary Music Series

Dominic Donato, artistic director and conductor

Thurs., April 16, 8 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Purchase Repertory Theatre: Stage Door](#)

Directed by Sarah Grace Wilson

Fri., April 17 & 24, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 18 & 25, 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Wed.–Thurs., April 22–23, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Open House: Summer 2015 Youth & Precollege Programs](#)

Sat., April 18, 10 a.m.

Music Building, Room 0078

[Sing-a Long-a Sound of Music](#)

Sat., April 18, 8 p.m.

Sun., April 19, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Afternoon Music](#)

Mon., April 20, 12:20 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Gary Hochman: Deadly Deception at Sobibor](#)

Jewish Studies Lecture

Mon., April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Student Services Building, Red Room

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

Directed by Jon Faddis, with special guest Steve Turre

Mon., April 20, 7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

Jazz at Lincoln Center, Broadway and 60th St., 5th floor, New York City

[Anthony Domestico: D.H. Lawrence's "The Fox"](#)

Friends of Humanities Lecture Series

Tues., April 21, 3 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

Visiting Poet Series: [Alex Dimitrov](#)

Tues., April 21, 6:30 p.m.

Student Services Building, Red Room

[Stories from the Congo Film Series: Congo in Four Acts](#) (2010, 69 min.)

Wed., April 22, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Jeff Whetstone](#)

Wed., April 22, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Jazz Arranging Concert](#)

Wed., April 22, 8 p.m.

Music Building, Choral Hall

[Paul Kaplan: European Renaissance Art and the Dress of African Subjects](#)

Thurs., April 23, 4:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra](#)

Conducted by Ransom Wilson

Fri., April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Dance Company Spring Concert](#)

Co-directed by Larry Clark and Bettijane Sills

Fri., April 24, 8 p.m.

Sat., April 25, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Sun., April 26, 2 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

BFA Senior Thesis Film Screenings

Sat.–Sun., April 25–26, 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

More screenings on May 1–3 and May 8–10

Music Building, Choral Hall

[Paper Jam 2015: Art Auction and Party](#)

Sat., April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art

[BBC Concert Orchestra](#)

Sat., April 25, 8 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

[Purchase Jazz Combo: Horace Silver Retrospective](#)

Mon., April 27, 7 p.m.
Music Building, Room 0001

[Purchase Guitar Ensemble Concert](#)

Tues., April 28, 5:30 p.m.
Music Building, Recital Hall

Visiting Poet Series: [Natalie Eilbert](#) and [Danniel Schoonebeek](#)

Tues., April 28, 6:30 p.m.
Student Services Building, Red Room

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

Wed., April 29, 4:30 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Purchase Symphonic Winds](#)

Wed., April 29, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

[Literature Senior Project Presentations](#)

Thurs., April 30, 5:30 p.m.
Student Services Building, Red Room

[Purchase Contemporary Ensemble](#)

Purchase Contemporary Music Series
Dominic Donato, artistic director and conductor
Thurs., April 30, 8 p.m.
Music Building, Recital Hall

BFA Senior Thesis Film Screenings

Fri., May 1 & 8, 6 p.m.
Sat., May 2 & 9, 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Sun., May 3 & 10, 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Music Building, Choral Hall

[34th Annual Natural and Social Sciences Student Symposium](#)

Sat., May 2, 8:30 a.m.
Natural Sciences Building, Room 1001 (Lecture Hall)
and other rooms in the Natural Sciences and Social Sciences Buildings

[Patti Lupone: The Lady with the Torch](#) and **After Party**

Sat., May 2, 8 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

[Electric Cabaret](#)

Sat., May 2, 8 p.m.
Music Building, Room 0081

[RIOULT Dance NY](#)

Sun., May 3, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Brass Chamber Music Concert](#)

Sun., May 3, 7 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

UUP End-of-the-Year Luncheon

Retirees will be honored

Mon., May 4, noon

Performing Arts Center, Upper Lobby

[Spring Choral Concert](#)

Mon., May 4, 6:30 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[BFA Acting Senior Showcase](#)

Tues., May 5, 8 a.m.

Dance Building Room 0029 (Dance Theatre Lab)

[Purchase Sinfonietta Plays Purchase New Music](#)

Purchase Contemporary Music Series

Dominic Donato, artistic director and conductor

Tues., May 5, 8 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Final Exam Week](#)

Wed.–Tues., May 6–12

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Genesis Breyer P-Orridge](#)

Wed., May 6, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Conservatory Chamber Players: Music from the Age of Enlightenment](#)

Sun., May 10, 3 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Senior Week 2015](#)

Mon.–Thurs., May 11–14

Last Day of Spring 2015 Classes

Tues., May 12

21st Annual Senior Project Processional

Tues., May 12, 4 p.m.

Southside to the Library

[2015 Westchester GIS User Group](#) (all-day conference)

Thurs., May 14, 7 a.m.

Natural Sciences Building, Room 1001 and other rooms

Faculty/Staff vs. Seniors Kickball Game

Thurs., May 14, 3 p.m.

Great Lawn or the grass softball field (TBA)

Rain location: The gym

[43rd Annual Commencement](#)

Fri., May 15: The procession begins at 12:30 p.m.

Check-in: 10:30–11 a.m.

Westchester County Center

198 Central Avenue, White Plains