



May 9, 2016

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

Dear Colleagues:

Just because you can't touch an event the day after doesn't mean it didn't happen. So here's a mini "year in review" in case you need help believing it happened.

One of my personal favorites of 2015–16 has to be the first meeting of our new College Senate. Our faculty presiding officer, **Dan Hanessian**, has ably led the implementation of our shared governance model. Dan's effort, and those of all the committee chairs and senators, has brought about a smooth and well-organized transition to our new governance structure.

And speaking of stand-out leadership efforts: This year marks the end of an era of really fine leadership provided by **Greg Taylor**, who has guided the theatre arts conservatory for eight years with inclusive and caring stewardship. Thank you, Greg!

And, now, to return to the beginning: The academic year started off for our new students with the first-ever **First-Year Convocation**, complemented by a film presentation of Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. As a follow-up to the film, three weeks of the First-Year Seminar were devoted to topics surrounding diversity, including identity, microaggressions, and privilege, in workshops developed and conducted by Diversity Fellow [Shaka McGlotten](#).

The **Durst Humanities Building** reopened (some might say it's still reopening), and it's great to have it back and filled with students and faculty. Thanks to **Ross Daly**, **Peter Sprague**, and **Sean Connelly** and the whole Capital Facilities group for the effort in getting the building opened.

In 2015–16, we have seen several efforts to launch new programs and reinvigorate others. Here are a few that come to mind:

- A cadre of faculty members, led by **Genevieve Hyacinthe**, spearheaded the effort to update and reinstate the [minor in global black studies](#). In response to a call for proposals in connection with the minor, four projects for 2016–17 have been funded.
- A new campus program, **One Night**, was launched. The program, which is a joint effort between Academic Affairs and the Office of Community Engagement (OCE), uses a play script of the same name, written by **Dean Bell**, to help students more deeply understand the dynamics of sexual assault.
- The proposed new **MFA in Media Art and Culture** has undergone two external reviews.
- The Learning Center piloted an **internship program** that allows for more robust training and encourages applicants from a wider range of majors and with a greater diversity of backgrounds.
- The Office of Community Engagement opened our new **Multicultural Center** in January, which will expand the educational and social diversity/cultural programming for the campus.

- This past spring, the OCE also expanded our **gender-neutral housing accommodations**. In the fall, returning residents may live with any gender in any of our eight residential buildings.

There were several programs that were especially important this year, and here are a few that stand out:

- On February 24, the campus celebrated Black History Month with the powerful [Lift Every Voice](#), a wonderful evening of presentations, remarks from the stage, performances, and a photo exhibit in the upper lobby of the Performing Arts Center. It was a proud moment for our community because it was conceived and created by a diverse company of people from across campus. In all, someone from each school contributed to the production.
- [Ruth Wilson Gilmore](#), the inaugural Eugene Grant Distinguished Scholar, organized four events and worked with eight social justice fellows from disciplines across the college. Her work culminated with an [Earth Day Symposium](#) at the Neuberger Museum, focused on water and the social justice issues related to its use and management.
- [Liza Lou: Color Field and Solid Grey](#) opened in November. Liza Lou challenges traditional definitions of painting, sculpture, and craft in her dazzling installations made entirely of glass beads. *Color Field*, the artist's largest sculpture to date, is an abstract work measuring approximately 1,400 square feet that carpeted nearly the entire floor of the Neuberger Museum of Art's largest gallery in a shimmering field of color.
- In February, the Performing Arts Center launched the *Purchase Film Series*, curated by faculty in the School of Film and Media Studies, to bring the best in contemporary filmmaking to the PAC. This initial installment, *Documentary Now!*, featured three films with guest speakers: [Ivory Tower](#), [The Iron Ministry](#), and [Free Angela and All Political Prisoners](#).

Plans for the PAC's 2016–17 season are well underway with a vision that begins to shift toward incubation of new works and longer-term artists' residencies. Highlights include commission projects with Kronos Quartet and Shen Wei Dance Arts, and a special commission with **Doug Varone**, a member of our dance faculty. Varone's piece will feature 14 students in the Conservatory of Dance. We are especially pleased by the work of **Jon Faddis**, professor of jazz studies, who has curated an excellent jazz series for 2016–17.

Under the heading of "if you missed this event, you missed out," here are some big ones: [Blues for Mr. Charlie](#) by the Purchase Repertory Theatre; any of the Durst Lectures by **Manohla Dargis**; dance concerts, but especially the [spring concert](#); the community event led by our students in November, [Purchase Stands with Mizzou](#), to honor and support students protesting at the University of Missouri; [The House of the Spirits](#), a theatre and performance production; the [MFA exhibitions](#) in the Maass Gallery; the [new media senior exhibition](#) in the Passage Gallery; the launch of [Italics Mine](#); the 35th annual [Student Research Symposium](#); and last, but certainly not least, the student awards ceremony.

And now for a potpourri of items that come to mind:

- More than 30 students attended the annual SUNY-wide [undergraduate research conference](#) at SUNY Cobleskill, led by **Linda Bastone**.
- Thanks to the hard work of **Chris Kaczmarek**, **Steven Lam**, **Brooke Singer**, **Ed Herran**, and **Christopher Robbins**, and with great leadership by **Ravi Rajan** and **Betsy Robertson**, we successfully opened our community-based engagement lab ([PC4](#)) in Yonkers.
- The **Library** and its staff continue to serve our students and community in remarkable ways, from ongoing programs to special efforts like the program for Black History Month and the Faculty Achievement Recognition event.
- The response by **Campus Technology Services** (CTS) to a computer virus outbreak in the Humanities Building was so swift that it was contained and eliminated with little harm done.

- Our **athletics program** continues to produce experiences that reinforce the importance of performance on the field as a support for performance in the classroom, ending the year with two Chancellor's Award recipients.

And, now ... let's celebrate our success at Commencement!

2015–16 Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Our 2015–16 faculty and staff recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence were announced last week in the notice for next September's Convocation, where they will be honored. These awards are system-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide statewide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. Before we conclude this academic year, I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate them. We are very proud of your accomplishment and dedication!

Excellence in Adjunct Teaching:

Philip Listengart, Associate Professor of Art+Design (Sculpture), School of Art+Design

Michael Taub, Lecturer in Liberal Studies, School of Liberal Studies & Continuing Education

Excellence in Librarianship:

Carrie Marten, Resource Sharing Librarian, Purchase College Library

Excellence in Professional Service:

Christopher Marsigliano, Technical Support Engineer, Campus Technology Services

Rosalie Reutershan, Assistant to the Chair, School of Humanities

Excellence in Classified Service:

Hugo Reyes, Maintenance Supervisor, Facilities Management

Purchase College Faculty Awards

I am pleased to announce the recipients of this year's final round of Purchase College faculty awards. *Please join me in congratulating them.* 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.

[2016–18 Peter and Bette Fishbein Junior Faculty Research Award in the Liberal Arts](#)

Thanks to the generosity of Peter and Bette Fishbein, this award now provides \$5,000 to cover costs necessary for undertaking a scholarly research endeavor in one of the liberal arts disciplines. The 2016–18 recipient is **Meagan Curtis**, assistant professor of psychology. The funding will enable her to further examine the efficacy of the perceptual training program she has developed to improve pitch perception and, consequently, the ability to identify emotion in speech. Some of the funding will support her training in the use of newly acquired EEG equipment.

[Faculty Support Awards](#) are used to fund research, academic travel and conference presentations, artistic endeavors, or other comparable professional activity. The **spring 2016 recipients** are:

Shemeem Abbas, Political Science

Leandro Benmergui, History

Matthew Bollinger, Painting/Drawing

Stella Ebner, Printmaking

Stephen Flusberg, Psychology

Beth Livensperger, Painting/Drawing

Kathleen McCormick, Literature

Deborah Mesa-Pelly, Photography

Elizabeth Middleton, Chemistry

Gaura Narayan, Literature

Kate Gilmore, Sculpture
Maria Guralnik, Arts Management
Paula Halperin, History
Casey Haskins, Philosophy
Yanine Hess, Psychology
Sharon Horvath, Painting/Drawing
Sanford Ikeda, Economics
Paul Kaplan, Art History

Rosalind Newman, Dance
Krystal Perkins, Psychology
Ted Piltzecker, Studio Composition
Jeff Scheible, Cinema Studies
Jordan Schildcrout, Theatre and Performance
Ragnhild Utheim, Anthropology
Renqiu Yu, History
Raphael Zollinger, Sculpture

Global Black Studies Project Awards

At the beginning of February, I announced that funding had been set aside to support projects that relate to global black studies: up to \$1,500 for individual faculty activity and up to \$5,000 for on-campus events. A faculty committee evaluated the proposals submitted for 2016–17 for their scholarly/artistic depth, expected impact on the campus, and alignment with the donors' intent. I am pleased to announce that project proposals from the following faculty have been awarded funding: **Todd Coolman**, Jazz Studies; **Genevieve Hyacinthe** and **Paul Kaplan**, Art History; and **Krystal Perkins**, Psychology.

Upcoming Events: 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:

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

– [Hot + Fresh | 2016 Senior Thesis Exhibition](#) (through May 11)

Performing Arts Center, Upper Lobby:

– [Interpretations](#) (through May 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 (through May 15)

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)

Senior Week

Check the [Commencement site](#) for details

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

[Pedja Muzijevic: A Piano Concert Inspired by Louise Fishman](#)

Wed., May 11, 6 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art

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

[Paper Jam 2016:](#) Art Auction and Party

Sat., May 14, 6:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum of Art

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

Mon., May 23 (through June 10)