



August 25, 2014

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

Dear Colleagues:

Discussion of the “big efforts” is customarily left to later issues of these *Notes*. As a brief but heartfelt nod to custom, then, let me say: welcome back. I look forward to seeing all of you; I’m delighted to meet our new faculty and staff, including our 23 [new full-time faculty members](#); our enrollment is where it should be; and I’m excited about the new academic year!

The year is short, though. To get the ball rolling on our ongoing efforts, here are some updates and six topics that I suggest should shape our campus conversations.

As many of you know, as an extension of the First-Year Experience Task Force, a common reading—Junot Díaz’s [Drown](#)—was selected this year and distributed at orientation to all new students, both freshmen and transfers. It is being used in College Writing, the First-Year Seminar, and some literature and Latin American studies courses. Please consider how you might engage our new students in discussions of this book or by contributing an effort to this year’s campus focus on the Dominican Republic.

Two efforts by the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences are underway to reinvigorate and mature Purchase’s relationship to local communities. The first of these is the launch of Casa Purchase, an Outreach Center for Latin American Studies in Port Chester, led by Leandro Benmergui and announced by Ross Daly last week. The second effort is a new partnership with the environmental science program at Ossining High School, led by Joe Skrivanek and George Kraemer. In the School of the Arts, the new MA program in entrepreneurship in the arts has been approved by SUNY and now awaits approval by the New York State Education Department. Equally exciting is Purchase’s involvement with the Research Foundation’s Arts and Humanities [Network of Excellence](#). These dynamic efforts highlight the innovations that are at the heart of strategic advancement at Purchase College.

To further community consensus around ideas for change and development, here are six topics that will necessarily shape this year’s campus dialogue:

1. **Governance:** What is the most appropriate structure for shared governance at Purchase College? This conversation started immediately at our first faculty retreat on August 21. I want to thank Peggy DeCooke, our faculty presiding officer, for her leadership on this effort. I look forward to the ongoing dialogue as we move to a final decision this fall.
2. **Liberal Studies:** A yearlong task force issued two important reports, available on the Strategic Enrollment Planning [website](#), that will guide our discussion this year. An important question to consider is how can the liberal studies program engage traditional undergraduates, its primary audience, sooner in their time at Purchase?
3. **Reinvestment:** In a time when new state money as a percentage of overall revenue is shrinking, and we are being asked to look inward to relocate resources, it will be important to prioritize our goals. Increasing resources in support of compensation, for both full-time and part-time faculty, and programs is critical for

an environment appropriate to our mission to flourish.

4. **General Education:** As a “best practice,” none is more important than faculty ownership of curricula. While our track record for achieving student learning outcomes in the general education program is strong, it seems important to ask: can we create a more distinctive program through greater intentional and shared stewardship across the campus?
5. **New Program Development:** We know which programs potential students apply to, even when the college does little recruiting for them, and which programs our current students select in high numbers. This information gives us some insight into what new programs, undergraduate and graduate, might fit our mission. Being mindful of costs associated with new programs, we will explore with the faculty ways to enrich college offerings while sustaining what we do well, regardless of program size.
6. **Exporting Purchase:** Nothing instills greater confidence in our students than being in “real world” situations that allow them to act on what they know. It goes to the heart of the challenge President Schwarz raised in his 2014 [commencement address](#):

Because of your creativity and cross-disciplinary education, you can look at opportunities and fill in the dots that others cannot even see. You can be both creative and disciplined, both technological and emotional, both expressive and convincing. You can help the world’s creative thinkers not just think but achieve and get it done.

There is a larger role that internships, international study, and service learning can play in strengthening Purchase’s external presence.

And, finally, but perhaps most importantly, how do we help our students excel in writing and speaking so they can express, explore, and explain “the dots that others cannot even see”? For a college that has so much to offer its students, and whose students, in turn, have so much to contribute to the world, it seems that a Purchase College education should ensure that their contributions are expressed eloquently and clearly. To strengthen this effort, can we create more cross-disciplinary, experiential opportunities that help students both expressively and emotionally? How can the Performing Arts Center and Neuberger Museum incite ongoing, and perhaps even risky, creative and critical thinking across the college? I look forward to our ongoing campus conversations this year on these and other topics as well.

2014–15 Faculty Handbook Online

What is the process for a curriculum revision? What is a faculty member’s role in helping students with disabilities succeed at Purchase? How long must assessed student work be retained? How can you promote your professional activities and accomplishments? What is the faculty review timeline for reappointment, promotion, and tenure? Find answers to these and much more in the **2014–15 edition of the Faculty Handbook**, available at www.purchase.edu/facultyhandbook. It contains a wealth of information for faculty members in every stage of their career at Purchase. The handbook is also updated as needed to reflect changes that may occur during the academic year.

Upcoming Award and Leave Application Deadlines

Please note the upcoming application/nomination deadlines for:

- [Junior Faculty Development Leaves](#): **September 15** (to your chair or director)
- [Sabbatical Leaves](#): **October 1** (to your chair or director)
- [Faculty Support Awards](#): **November 15**
- [Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence](#): The respective peer-review committees on campus will issue calls for nominations this fall. **December 1** is the deadline for peer review of nominations for all categories except Adjunct Teaching (due to SUNY **November 3**) and Librarianship (Jan. 15, 2015).

For more information, including the leave application form and application deadlines in spring 2015, please visit the [Faculty Awards](#) section on the Office of the Provost website. Information on awards and leaves offered through the New York State/United University Professions Joint Labor-Management Committees (JLMC) is available at nysuup.lmc.ny.gov.

Fall 2014 Faculty Colloquia: Save the Dates!

Please save the following dates, and watch for e-invitations with more information on the speakers and their presentations:

Wed., October 22, in the Neuberger Museum Study:

Tracy Fitzpatrick, Genevieve Hyacinthe, Julian Kreimer, Jane Kromm, and Michael Lobel

Wed., November 19, in the Buffer:

Mark Jonas and Hakan Topal

Both events will be held at **4:30 p.m.** [Videos](#) of previous colloquia can be viewed on the Purchase website.

Bridges to the Baccalaureate Receives \$1.3M NIH Grant Renewal

The National Institutes of Health has notified Joe Skrivanek that his application for renewal of the [Bridges to the Baccalaureate](#) grant has been approved. The renewal is for five years (through 2019) and a total budget of \$1.3 million. This is the fourth renewal of the original grant that he obtained in 2000. The Bridges program provides underrepresented students in the biomedical and behavioral sciences at six community colleges with support services to ease the transition from the two-year to a four-year institution. The support services include tutoring, mentoring, scholarships, and a summer research experience at Purchase. Over the past 14 years, more than 200 students have participated; of these, 85 percent have transferred to a four-year institution (42 percent to Purchase), 75 percent have completed their BA or BS degree, and 33 percent are pursuing postgraduate work.

Fall 2014 Humanities Lectures: William Deresiewicz and Junot Díaz

The School of Humanities is pleased to announce the following two lectures:

Tues., September 16, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Red Room

[William Deresiewicz](#), author of the much-discussed 2014 *New Republic* article, “Don't Send Your Kids to the Ivy League,” and a new book, [Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life](#) (Free Press, 2014), will give a reading, followed by a Q&A and book signing. Refreshments will be provided, and books will be available for purchase. An associate professor of English at Yale until 2008, Deresiewicz is a contributing writer for *The Nation* and contributing editor for *The New Republic* and *The American Scholar*. His essays “The Disadvantages of an Elite Education” and “Solitude and Leadership” are both widely read and studied, and he is a frequent speaker on college campuses and at leadership conferences across the country. A three-time National Magazine Award nominee, Deresiewicz won the Hiett Prize in the Humanities in 2013 and the National Book Critics Circle’s Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing for 2012.

Tues., October 7, 4:30–6 p.m., Performing Arts Center (PepsiCo Theatre)

This special evening with [Junot Díaz](#) includes a lecture, reading, conversation, and book signing. Díaz is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown* (1997); *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *This Is How You Lose Her* (2013), a *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Award finalist. He is the recipient of a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and PEN/O. Henry Award. Díaz is currently the fiction editor at the *Boston Review* and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This lecture, part of the Durst Distinguished Lecture Series, is supported by an endowment from the Durst family, long-time benefactors of Purchase College.

Upcoming Natural and Social Sciences Lectures: Jason VanOra and John Howard

The following two lectures are part of the School of Natural and Social Sciences [Fall 2014 Lecture Series](#).

Information on the final lecture (on Dec. 2) will be included in the November issue of *Notes*. Each lecture begins at **7 p.m.** in the **Natural Sciences Lecture Hall**.

Tues., September 9: Jason VanOra, PhD

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Kingsborough Community College/CUNY

Using Qualitative Research on Students' Identities to Influence Public Debate on Literacy, Educational Standards, and Access to College

[Jason VanOra](#), a Purchase College alumnus, is a social/personality psychologist whose research addresses the ways narratives can be used to reveal individual and collective struggles of people who are living in conditions of both marginalization and hope. In this talk, he demonstrates his use of narrative to study community college students in developmental classes. He illustrates the potential for qualitative meta-analyses to help narrative researchers "power-up" their findings to inform social policy. His methodologies have implications for policy, curriculum, pedagogy, and psychological understandings of at-risk students.

Tues., October 7: John Howard, PhD, JD

Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Purchase College

Behind the Headlines: Ending Sexual Violence on College Campuses

In the 9th Annual John Howard Lecture on Law and Society, Professor Howard discusses the ways in which sexual assault on college campuses is a problem that is widespread, complex, and long-standing. The first Title IX lawsuit on this issue was filed more than two decades ago, yet not much has changed. The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. The panelists are **Fredric Green**, chief of the Sex Crimes Division in the Westchester County District Attorney's Office; **Catherine VanBomel**, LCSW, a staff clinical social worker and coordinator of victims assistance and educational services; and **Gabriella Ibacache**, the 2014 winner of the President's Award, School of Natural and Social Sciences. The objective of the lecture and panel discussion is to advocate for policies and approaches that have been successful in combating the problem rather than simply talking about it and lamenting its existence.

Upcoming Events: August–September

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 and opening:

Neuberger Museum of Art:

- [The Art of Zero: Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, Günther Uecker and Friends](#) (through Sept. 28)
- [This Leads to Fire: Russian Art from Nonconformism to Global Capitalism, Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation Collection](#) (opens Sept. 14 with a public open house, 1–3 p.m.)
- [When Modern was Contemporary: The Roy R. Neuberger Collection](#) (through Dec. 25)

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

- [CHAIRS: Isabelle Moore, Windgate Artist in Residence](#) (opens Sept. 2)

Casa Purchase Kickoff Party

Thurs., Aug. 28, 4:30 p.m.

Student Services Building, Red Room

Labor Day (holiday): No classes

Mon., Sept. 1

[Jason VanOra: Fall 2014 Natural and Social Sciences Lecture Series](#)

Tues., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

Natural Sciences Lecture Hall

Convocation**Wed., Sept. 10, 12:20 p.m.**

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Stephen Yusko: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)**Wed., Sept. 10, 4:30 p.m.**

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

William Deresiewicz: Fall 2014 Humanities Lecture Series**Tues., Sept. 16, 4:30 p.m.**

Student Services Building, Red Room

[Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema](#)**Tues., Sept. 16, 7 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

[Johan Liden: Visiting Artist Lecture Series](#)**Wed., Sept. 17, 4:30 p.m.**

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[Starting from Zero: Art, Harmony and Innovation](#)*Panel discussion***Thurs., Sept. 18, 4:30 p.m.**

Neuberger Museum of Art

[Drive-In Animation](#)*Outdoor screening of animated shorts***Fri., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.**

Admissions parking lot (A1) behind the Neuberger Museum of Art

[Purchase Symphony Orchestra](#)**Fri., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center

Musical Theatre*A student-run collaboration of musical theatre and dance*

\$3 with valid Purchase ID, \$5 at the door

Fri.–Sat., Sept. 26–27, 8 p.m.

Dance Theatre Lab

[An Evening with Branford Marsalis](#)**Sat., Sept. 27, 8 p.m.**

Performing Arts Center