



August 31, 2015

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

Dear Colleagues:

And so, we begin! Of course, it goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway: It's good to have everyone back. I'd like to especially welcome our new faculty to Purchase. There are [24 new full-time faculty members](#) this year. Please take time to welcome them to our community.

Please also join me in welcoming four new interim chairs and directors. **Lawrence Tamburri**, associate professor of practice in arts management and entrepreneurship, is the interim chair of that BA and MA program. **James Undercofler**, a part-time professor of arts management and entrepreneurship and former chair of that program, has been appointed interim director of the Conservatory of Music. **Nelly van Bommel**, assistant professor of dance and former board-of-study coordinator, is the new interim director of the Conservatory of Dance. And **Agustin Zarzosa**, associate professor of cinema studies, will serve as the interim chair of the School of Film and Media Studies while Michelle Stewart is on leave.

We welcomed new students this year with the new first-year student convocation yesterday. This will be followed by a faculty-led discussion and screening of Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center's PepsiCo Theatre, to which all faculty are invited. These two events are designed to help introduce students to the kind of intellectual engagement that they will find in your classes and to role-model civil discussion.

On other fronts, the current strategic plan will end this year. Peggy De Cooke will work across the campus to update our progress on the plan's initiatives. She will also draft a summary evaluation of the progress of each strategic direction. This draft will be shared widely across the campus and amended in response to campus input. My office will arrange special community forums to gather responses to the summary evaluation. I hope you will make time to attend.

Connected to the current strategic plan, and a central element of developing the new one, will be our Periodic Program Review (PPR) for Middle States. Our review will take place in 2017 and the study document will need to be prepared, reviewed, and submitted to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education by June 1, 2016. This is an important accreditation action and one that will require involvement from across the campus.

Finally, we achieved an important milestone this past academic year by approving a new governance structure. Implementing the new structure, however, will require continued focus. Dan Hanessian, the new faculty presiding officer and chair of the College Senate, is working with Peggy De Cooke, his predecessor in those positions, Keith Landa, our University Faculty senator, and Betsy Robertson, from the president's office, to plan the migration to the new senate structure. This is an exciting process, but one that will take time. I look forward to this final stage of the process.

Begin well! I wish you the very best start to this new academic year. I hope to catch up with all of you and am looking forward to a great year.

Ruth Wilson Gilmore Chosen as the Inaugural Eugene Grant Distinguished Scholar

We are pleased to announce that [Ruth Wilson Gilmore](#) has been chosen from a competitive field of nominated scholars as the inaugural **Eugene Grant Distinguished Scholar**. Gilmore, a professor of geography at the CUNY Graduate Center, will contribute to the college's mission of social activism and community engagement through her innovative work on the environment and the public good. With Purchase students, she will use water as a lens to investigate differential access to food, medicine, housing, and land. Gilmore will give public lectures, mentor Social Justice Fellows chosen from among the student body, and work with a variety of our faculty members in such areas as environmental studies, sociology, visual arts, art history, and new media. Her first public lecture will take place on Thursday, **October 15**, at 4:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Royal and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature 2015–16: Film Critic Manohla Dargis ('85)

[Manohla Dargis](#), an alumna of our literature program ('85) and co-chief film critic for the *New York Times*, joins us this year as the **Royal and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature**. Dargis will present several programs over the course of the year, beginning with a panel discussion on the role of criticism today, to be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, **September 28**, in the Performing Arts Center. She will moderate the discussion with three working critics: Wesley Morris, staff writer at *Grantland*; Emily Nussbaum, television critic at *The New Yorker*; and Amy Taubin, contributing editor at *Sight and Sound* and *Film Comment*. This event is free and open to the public. In the spring, she will present a series of seminars, workshops, and lectures. One lecture will focus on race in cinema; another will revisit, from the perspective of our own digital age, André Bazin's germinal question, "What is cinema?" An intensive workshop in criticism writing will be the culmination of a year's work with a small group of students. Dargis will end the year with a lecture that looks back on her life and work as a female critic working in a male-dominated field.

Talk and Reading by Acclaimed Writer Lydia Davis on Sept. 24

On Thursday, **September 24**, the Purchase College Library, in collaboration with the creative writing faculty, will welcome acclaimed writer, essayist, novelist, and translator [Lydia Davis](#) to campus. She will give a talk and a reading in the Library's second floor reading room (time to be announced). This event is free and open to the public.

Davis is known for her idiosyncratic and [extremely short stories](#). Her books include *The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis* (2009), a compilation of stories written over 30 years, and *Can't and Won't* (2014), her fifth collection of new short stories. As Peter Orner observed in a *New York Times* review of her work, "This is what the best and most original literature can do: make us more acutely aware of life on and off the page." Davis was named a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government for her fiction and translations in 1999, received a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 2003, and won both an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award of Merit medal and the Man Booker International Prize in 2013.

Fall 2015 Faculty Colloquium: Save the Date!

Please save the following date and watch for your e-invitation, which will include the location and topics:

Wednesday, September 23, 4:30 p.m.

Faye Hirsch (Art+Design) and **Nontsikekelo Mutiti** (New Media)

[Videos](#) of previous colloquia can be viewed on the Purchase website.

Upcoming Award and Leave Application Deadlines

Please note the application/nomination deadlines this semester for:

- [Junior Faculty Development Leaves](#): **October 1*** (to your chair or director)

- [Sabbatical Leaves](#): **October 1** (to your chair or director)
- [Faculty Support Awards](#): **November 1***
- **New!** [Part-Time Teaching 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](#). (Nominations for the Adjunct Teaching award must be peer-reviewed earlier because they are due to SUNY on November 9, an earlier deadline than the other categories.)

**Revised dates*

For more information, including the leave application form and application deadlines in spring 2016, 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.

SUNY Multicampus Collaboration in Detroit

Faculty members **Christopher Robbins**, **Raphael Zollinger**, and **Rachel Owens** in the School of Art+Design began work this summer on an initiative that is bringing together architects from SUNY Buffalo, a digital fabrication lab at SUNY New Paltz, the sculpture program at Purchase College, and several community organizations in Detroit for a project that will transform abandoned property in Detroit into shared community space.

With the support of a [SUNY Network of Excellence Award](#) and a [Topol Award](#), they are creating several new courses that will culminate in an off-campus study program in Detroit, in which SUNY students will work with Detroit community organizations to install the architecture designed and fabricated at the three SUNY campuses.

Please email [Christopher Robbins](#) if you want to be involved—or if you know students who are interested in learning the digital fabrication methods necessary to create these structures at Purchase, or who want to travel to Detroit to help install the work and take part in a community engagement process.

The Incoming Class of 2019 and Admissions “Back to School” Event on Sept. 9

As we welcome the incoming class of 2019, here is a snapshot from the Office of Admissions; more information will be available after the census date this semester:

- **9,280 applications** and **1,252 undergraduate deposits** received (as of Aug. 25)
- 59% female, 41% male
- 87 average 1150 SAT/25 ACT
- **35 states** are represented; in addition to New York, the top 10 are New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas, Colorado, and North Carolina
- **14 countries**, in addition to the U.S., are represented: Bermuda, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Monaco, Norway, Singapore, and the United Kingdom

Among the incoming students, there are:

- several National Honor Society members
- a vice president of the National Art Honor Society
- a winner of the statewide Heddy Kilian Competition for high school piano and voice
- a winner of the Sole award at the 2014–15 International Women in Jazz competition
- a speaker at a *BBC World News* debate and member of the Model U.N.
- a volunteer at Heal the Bay, a nonprofit environmental group working to restore the Santa Monica Bay in California

- a winner of awards from the Columbia and American Scholastic Press Associations for her work on the Pacific literary journal *Ka Nalu Ola*
- nine children of Purchase alumni

To kick off the academic year in a fun way and build excitement around the new recruitment cycle, the Office of Admissions will be hosting a **“Back to School” event** on **September 9** at 4 p.m. in the Admissions Building. The highlights will include opportunities to:

- learn about admissions initiatives, strategies, and activities for the coming year
- meet the admissions team
- get first pick of the available volunteer opportunities through in-person sign-ups
- play an interactive “Myth vs. Fact” game
- experience a campus tour with an admissions ambassador
- enjoy cookies and milk with colleagues from across the campus

New in Moodle: Webinars and Live Online Classes

The Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center ([TLTC](#)) has integrated the Blackboard Collaborate tool into the campus Moodle environment, so faculty can now add webinars or synchronous online class sessions to their Moodle courses whenever they want. If you have attended any SUNY webinars, you are already familiar with the features that are now available. These include sharing documents and presentations; support for webcams, voice presentations, and teleconferencing; online white board and Web tours; chat messaging; online polling; and breakout rooms—essentially everything needed for a virtual classroom. This will be useful for bringing in guest speakers to your classes remotely, holding class when we have “snow days,” augmenting current online courses, and such uses as supporting study abroad and administrative videoconferencing.

2015–16 Faculty Handbook Online

What is the process for proposing a course or revising a curriculum? What is a faculty member’s role in helping students with disabilities succeed at Purchase? How long must you retain assessed student work? 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 **2015–16 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 Events: 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:

Neuberger Museum of Art:

- [GOLD](#) (through October 11)
- [Teresa Margolies: We Have a Common Thread](#) (through October 11)

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

- [120°: Jason Schneider, Windgate Artist in Residence](#) (September 8–25)

Opening reception: Thurs., Sept. 10, 4:30 p.m.

[How Artists Respond to Trauma and Urban Violence](#)

Wed., Sept. 2, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

Labor Day (holiday): No classes

Mon., Sept. 7

Convocation

Wed., Sept. 9, 12:15 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

Luncheon follows the ceremony, in the Performing Arts Center Upper Lobby

[Financial Literacy Workshop \(Part 1 of 3\)](#)

Wed., Sept. 9, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

Admissions “Back to School” Event

Wed., Sept. 9, 4 p.m.

Admissions Building

[Crossing the Bridge: Art as a Vehicle for Social Justice](#)

Wed., Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Kimberly Winkle](#)

Wed., Sept. 16, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

[National Theatre Live: Skylight](#)

Sun., Sept. 20 & 27, 2 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Afternoon Music](#)

Mon., Sept. 21, 12:30 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[After Death the Tongue Keeps Talking: Crime and Culture in Mexico](#)

Wed., Sept. 23, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

Faculty Colloquium: Faye Hirsch and Nontsikekelo Mutiti

Wed., Sept. 23, 4:30 p.m.

Location to be announced

Lydia Davis: Talk and Reading

Thurs., Sept. 24, time to be announced

Library, Second Floor Reading Room

[Opera at the Cinema: Norma](#)

Sun., Sept. 27, 2 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Panel Discussion: The Role of the Critic Today](#)

Manohla Dargis with Wesley Morris, Emily Nussbaum, and Amy Taubin

Mon., Sept. 28, 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

[Artista Latina: Teresa Margolies in the Landscape of Latin American Art](#)

Wed., Sept. 30, 12:30 p.m.

Neuberger Museum Study

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere](#)

Wed., Sept. 30, 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016