



December 14, 2015

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

Dear Colleagues:

PART IV:

Kenneth Robinson defines creativity as “the process of having original ideas that have value.” I like Robinson’s definition because it doesn’t limit the manner in which the idea has “value.” His notion of value is an open-ended proposition, in which we are invited to create and inquire.

And that openness embraces one of the most essential elements of really great learning communities: diversity. Diverse communities, like ideas and ways of knowing, spark in us—inspire in us, in fact—unforeseen and incalculable pathways toward original ideas of value.

More and more, the world will consume original ideas of value while seeking to embrace diverse ways of generating them. And the learning we seek to inspire at Purchase is given agency by this complexity and presents us with the opportunity to strengthen the alignment between our community values (openness, inclusion, equity, and respect) and the creation of knowledge.

So, I’ll end this conversation with the question I started with: Are we uncertain enough? As we develop our next strategic plan, I hope our work will advance the connections between critical and creative inquiry and liberal education, which can empower students for success in an economy that will be globally complex, competitive, and more frequently disrupted. Our opportunity, in response to these conditions, will be to articulate an educational promise that does not hinge itself to vocational dictates as determinant value. In short, our sole reason for being cannot be to create a well-trained workforce. The economy will continue its movement toward an open-endedness that will require the inquiry and creativity we can embolden in our students. To that end lies our opportunity to offer students a viable choice: one that is neither reductive nor dispiriting, but, rather, expansively democratic, liberating, and inspiring from within them original ideas that are affirming and relevant.

Save the Date! Teaching and Learning Day on January 19

The Library and the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center (TLTC) are hosting the annual Winter Teaching and Learning Day on **Tuesday, January 19**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details will be sent out later, but as in the past, there will be morning and afternoon sessions covering library services, Moodle and other instructional technology topics, and pedagogy workshops. This year’s Winter Teaching and Learning Day will also be used to kick off the spring semester’s Faculty Community of Practice cohorts. Feel free to come for any of the morning or afternoon sessions, or for the full day. This is a good chance to reconnect with colleagues after the holidays; we hope to see you there.

Upcoming Events: December

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:

- [After 1965: Art in a Time of Social Unrest](#) (through March 13, 2016)
- [Liza Lou: Color Field and Solid Grey](#) (through February 21, 2016)

Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery:

- [MFA Group Reception: Medium Rare](#) (through December 18)

Passage Gallery:

- [Over](#) (through December 16)

Performing Arts Center, Upper Lobby:

- [Who Owns the Sky?](#) (through January 31, 2016)

[Final Exam Week](#)

Mon.–Fri., Dec. 14–18

[Purchase New Music](#)

Tues., Dec. 15, 8 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

[Visiting Artist Lecture Series: David Altmejd](#)

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

Visual Arts Building, Room 1016

Last Day of Fall 2015 Classes:

Fri., Dec. 18

On-campus residences close at 7 p.m. for winter break

[Rob Mathes Holiday Concert](#)

Fri.–Sat., Dec. 18–19, 8 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

Winter Break

Sat.–Tues., Dec. 19–Jan. 19

Last Day to Submit Fall 2015 Grades

Tues., Dec. 22

Deadline for resolution of Incomplete grades: Fri., Jan. 15, 2016

[Winter Session](#)

Dec. 29–Jan. 19