



February 14, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As the semester begins, I have some important announcements that will interest the campus community. These updates are designed to enhance our academic environment, support faculty scholarly and creative activities, and facilitate student engagement. I look forward to a productive and inspiring semester ahead.

### **Senior Project Assessment**

In addition to the challenges presented by the enrollment cliff, institutions are struggling with a decline in public confidence in higher education, particularly concerning the perceived return on investment of a college degree. A recent [report from the Pew Research Center](#) reveals that only 40% of Americans view a college education as essential for securing a well-paying job. At Purchase College, we know that our graduates have been well-prepared for either graduate school or career success in the arts, sciences, and liberal arts fields. The senior project, our capstone experience that enables students to synthesize the knowledge and skills they've gained during their undergraduate studies, also serves a vital role in facilitating the transition from college to the work force or graduate studies.

Because the senior project is so instrumental in preparing students for life after Purchase, last year's Senior Project assessment cycle aimed to gather insights on how the learning outcomes associated with senior projects across our academic programs link to essential knowledge and competencies that are beneficial after graduation, as well as how these outcomes are communicated to students. I thank you all for your valuable insights, which will be extremely

useful in helping us to articulate more clearly and fully the compelling value of the senior project to prospective applicants and incoming students alike. The results are summarized in a report, [Senior Project Assessment Summary 2023-2024](#). I encourage you to review this summary as you continue to reflect upon the shape and role of the senior project within your program's curriculum. In order to further this important dialogue, the 2024-25 Senior Project assessment survey will include a new supplementary question asking faculty to consider ways in which Purchase might best promote the senior project's role not simply in synthesizing undergraduate learning, but also in preparing students for life after graduation. Again, thank you in advance for your assistance in gathering this important data, which will help us to further articulate the college's strengths as we seek to meet the demands of our ever-changing times.

## **Faculty Review Process Software**

Lyterati, the dossier administration software system used by Academic Affairs for the faculty review process, is going out of business effective August 2025. Ryan Nassisi and his team, led by Santoshikalyani Balasubramanian, will create a new dossier administration software system customized to our needs. This process is already underway and will be completed before the next review cycle commences. To ensure that the user experience is considered in this process, a Lyterati Replacement Workgroup has been formed to assist in this effort. The workgroup consists of the following members:

- Earnest Lamb, Provost
- Robin Aleman, Director Budget & Admin
- Kim Detterbeck, PPC Chair
- Nelly van Bommel, PPC Member
- Odile Delgado-Lamarre, Staff
- Meagan Curtis, NSS Director
- Yanine Hess, Faculty

Once completed, training in the newly developed system will be provided before the end of this semester for use in Summer 2025. All policies, procedures, and deadlines for the faculty review process remain the same. Only the dossier administration system is changing.

## **The TAPROOT Project**

The Sherman Fairchild Foundation has awarded \$500,000.00 to Purchase College to fund The TAPROOT Project through academic year 2028. The overarching goal of the TAPROOT (**T**echnology in the **A**rts **P**roject: **R**einvent, **O**riginate, **O**pen, **T**ransform) Project is to foster an expansive creative culture on campus in which emerging technologies are strategically and intentionally integrated across the arts. Just as a taproot is a deeply embedded source of energy for a plant, infusing technology will add new and sustaining energy to the arts.

The cornerstone of the Project will be the TAPROOT Fellows. Fellows will be faculty from across the arts who are interested in collaborating, building emerging technologies into their courses, and teaching students how to use those technologies as tools in the creative process. Twelve Taproot Fellows will be appointed over the course of the project. For more information about the Taproot Project and how to become a Fellow, please visit our [Grants Webpage](#). The deadline to submit a proposal is **Friday, March 7, 2025**, please refer to the webpage [TAPROOT Call for Proposals](#).

An informational session will be held on **Friday, February 21, 2025 at 11:00am via Zoom** in order to answer any of your questions. See details below:

### **TAPROOT Project Info Session Zoom Meeting w/Provost**

[Join Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 948 7619 9273

Passcode: 499617

Or you can call in One tap Mobile: +16469313860,, 94876199273# US

## Faculty Colloquia - Save the Dates

This spring we are happy to announce that we have scheduled two Spring Colloquia: our presenters will be speaking about the creative research conducted during their recent Leaves. Those of you who have attended these events in the past know how lively and fascinating these presentations and resulting discussions can be, and we very much encourage you to drop by.

### Spring I

**Wednesday, March 12** 5:00pm-6:30pm

#### Presenters

Mtume Gant, Assistant Professor of Film  
Peggy Stafford, Assistant Professor of Playwriting

### Spring II

**Wednesday April 9** 5:00pm – 6:30pm

#### Presenters

Joe McKay, Associate Professor of New Media  
Rachel Dickstein, Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance

Please look out for broadcast emails with the details for each colloquium in the next coming weeks.

## Faculty Award Applications Due Today

- [Emily and Eugene Grant Faculty Award](#): **February 14** The recipient will receive \$2,500 to subsidize research, performances, exhibitions, conferences, travel, and/or recital expenses.
- [Leff Senior Faculty Research Awards](#): **February 14** These funds are available to subsidize research, performances, exhibitions, conferences, travel, and/or recital expenses. Juanita and Joseph Leff Award recipient will receive a total of \$5,000 over one year (Leff: 2025–26); the funds will be distributed as a reimbursement of expenses incurred.
- [Topol Faculty Development Awards Summer 2025](#): **February 14** Each recipient will receive \$3,000 to use during the summer.

## Reminder of Religious Holidays

Purchase College is committed to ensuring that every student is guaranteed the right to pursue their academic goals while practicing their faith.

Any student who is unable to attend classes on a particular day or days, because of their religious beliefs, shall be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements that they may have missed because of such absence. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the college for making available to the student such equivalent opportunity.

Please note that our religious observances calendar includes only religious holidays that coincide with official Purchase College academic terms, sessions, or modules. The dates on which religious observances occur can vary from year to year. The observances listed are not exhaustive of all religions and their observable holidays. Although daily or weekly religious observances are not listed, we are committed to accommodating students' needs in accordance with [New York State Education Law 224-A](#).

For more information regarding academic attendance on religious holidays and accommodations, please visit the [Office of the Registrar page](#).

[Religious Observances - 2025](#) Please scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and refer to the list of the start and end of the religious holidays through 2028.

