

From the Desk of
President Michael E. Steiper
PURCHASE COLLEGE, SUNY

Dear Campus Community,

Welcome to campus and the spring semester! Whether you are new to our Purchase Family, or have been connected to Purchase for decades, I hope you'll agree that there are many things to look forward to and celebrate in the coming months. I'm thrilled the campus will soon be teeming with activity again, including welcoming more than 100 new students this spring semester. Days may be short now, but soon they will be bright and full of spring events, such as Accepted Student Days, Alumni Weekend, the Annual Natural and Social Science and Humanities symposia, and Commencement, to name just a few.

I plan to attend as many events as possible on and off campus and hope you will do the same. Whether your interests are in the performing and visual arts, sciences, or humanities, there are always performances, lectures, discussions, and workshops that are open to everyone, including alumni and the wider community. I'm especially grateful to the faculty and directors who put so much thought and energy into bringing so many leading artists and scholars to campus for us to learn from and appreciate.

I hope you will find your own inspiration in this edition of "From the President's Desk." It may not be time to change the clocks yet, but we're ready to Spring Forward!

Michael E. Steiper, Ph.D.

President, Purchase College, SUNY

New Leadership on Campus

I'm very pleased to announce that our new Chief Diversity Officer, Maurice Nelson (he/him/his), is starting next week. Maurice has more than 10 years of experience leading diversity-related work in higher education including as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Sacred Heart University and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Yale School of Nursing.

Nelson said, "I look forward to helping advance inclusive excellence in ways that feel authentic and sustainable. I'm most looking forward to listening deeply, building trust, and partnering across campus

to strengthen a culture where inclusion is lived, not just stated.” Please join me in welcoming Maurice and thanking the search committee for their efforts on behalf of the College.

After the retirement of UPD Chief Samuel Ramos, I’m pleased to share that Interim Assistant Chief Cindy Markus-Jones has agreed to serve as Interim Chief as we search for a new chief. Thank you to Interim Chief Markus-Jones for your service. Please note that we will share opportunities to meet and offer feedback on the final candidates.

Expanding Access Through Equity Grant

Congratulations are in order for Professors Ragnhild Utheim and Lisa Jean Moore, who have been awarded a significant grant from SUNY’s Office of Higher Education in Prison to expand access to higher education for incarcerated students in the region. [Read more about this important work.](#)

Global Education in Our Backyard

Last month, Professor Krystal Perkins, Chair of the Global Black Studies program, brought her students to the [U.N.’s annual Academic Conference on Africa](#) where they had the extraordinary opportunity to hear directly from African scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from different sectors and disciplines, who are engaged in high-level interactive dialogue on the most pressing issues facing their communities.

Professor’s Play Among the Best of the Month

Chair of our Playwriting and Screenwriting program, Peggy Stafford's new play was singled out as one of the "[13 Plays \(and 2 Festivals\) to Invigorate Your December](#)" by the *New York Times*. *Everything is Here* focuses on residents of an assisted living facility who re-enact scenes from *A Streetcar Named Desire*. We’re grateful that our students get to learn from some of today’s most interesting and accomplished creative professionals, like Professor Stafford.

Opera Students Serenade Broadview

Broadview at Purchase College recently hosted Jacque Trussel, Chair of the Voice and Opera Studies Department, along with his incredibly talented students. These students showcased their artistry, performing multiple pieces to an appreciative audience. Opportunities like this provide invaluable real-world performance experience for our students while enriching the Broadview community.

Alumni in the Upside Down and Everywhere Else

If you’re one of the millions of people who tuned in to the final season of *Stranger Things* you may be surprised by the Purchase connections. Dan Romer ’04 (Studio Composition) [provided orchestration for the finale](#) and Gabriella Pizzolo ’25 (Psychology) portrayed fan-favorite [Suzie in season 3 and 4](#).

This award season has some familiar faces including Abel Ferrara '74 (Political Science) in *Marty Supreme*. Parker Posey (Acting) was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role on Television for *White Lotus*, which also featured Sarah Catherine Hook '17 (Voice and Opera Studies).

Other shows generating buzz at the Golden Globes included *Severance*, which features Sydney Cole Alexander '15 (Acting) and *Abbott Elementary*, which features Chris Perfetti '11 (Acting) as Jacob.

It's well known that our alumni are both agile and creative. Dance alum Deniz Erkan Sancak '22 was just named one of [Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch for 2026](#) while Max Pearce '18 (Economics) has been keeping very busy as a Harlem Globetrotter and an incredible artist as seen in a [wonderful interview on CBS Morning!](#)

Launching Careers through the Career Development Center

Spring is a great time to prepare for summer internships and careers after graduation. The Career Development Center (CDC) provides personalized support to help students prepare for successful and meaningful careers. CDC staff can guide students in searching through thousands of internship and job opportunities, and even help them apply to graduate schools. The CDC offers dozens of events each year, including our annual Job and Internship Fair where students can meet 75+ employers from various industries ready to hire. Find out more about all the [resources available to students and alumni](#).

Giving Thanks to Those Who Give Back

Our Office of Institutional Advancement is excited to report that 2025's Year End Giving campaign has exceeded the total for last year by 20%, with our highest number of donors within the last 5 years! This year we are especially grateful that alum Peter Compo '81, offered a matching gift challenge in the amount of \$25k in support of the School of Natural and Social Sciences. We're very pleased to report that our donors heard the call and met this challenge, generating a total of \$50k for student scholarships!

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated for their generous support of our students and campus. It means the world to us. We look forward to many more opportunities to engage with alumni, donors, and friends in the coming year. Please stay tuned for invitations to events on and off campus.

Remembering Dr. King Through Service to Others

As we approach Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I appreciate that many people and organizations honor Dr. King's legacy by engaging in service. If you are looking for opportunities, [Volunteer New York](#) and [New York Cares](#) list many local community options for this weekend and throughout the year.

I look forward to sharing more much more news in the coming months. Until then, I wish you all a wonderful start to the new semester!

Sharing News and Staying Connected

If you have news, accolades, or stories to share, please be in touch! Current community members, reach out to: media@purchase.edu. Alumni, please contact: alumni@purchase.edu.

Please stay tuned for upcoming newsletters and follow us on social media to stay engaged with Purchase. Find us on Instagram at: [@purchasecollegepres](#) and [@purchasecollege](#) and follow us on LinkedIn: [President Stejper](#) and [Purchase College](#)