

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

Dear Campus Community,

As we finish our academic year, I wanted to congratulate our students on finishing strong this spring, and I wanted to thank our faculty and staff for all their hard work throughout the entire year!

I am thrilled to celebrate our graduating students this Friday at our 54th Commencement! Not only will we celebrate the achievements of 789 graduates, we will also bestow [Kyle Abraham '00](#) with an honorary degree and [Dr. Audrey Tyrka '88](#) and [Maxwell Pearce '18](#) with distinguished alumni awards. I look forward to many of you joining the celebration in person, though you can also [stream the event](#).

As we make the transition from the academic year to summer, I was struck by how much progress we've made. After facing serious challenges last winter, I am glad to report [renovations to the Olde apartments](#) have begun and our heating system upgrade remains on track to be completed before the next heating season. These projects will improve the residential experience for our students and ensure we are better prepared for next winter.

Over the summer, please keep in touch, especially our recent graduates! Tell us about your first job, your big break, or your graduate school plans! And, if you need any assistance, Purchase is still here for you! Both current students and graduates have access to our Career Development Center support for up to three years after graduation.

In the meantime, please enjoy some highlights from our community!

Michael E. Steiper
President

New Public Art on Campus

As part of the tradition of public art on campus, we're proud to present this year's [President's Award for Public Art](#) to Rowan Perkins for *A River to the Sky*, a striking 23-foot-tall, crocheted tapestry that honors the craftsmanship and traditions passed down through the generations.

Alumni weekend

This year's [alumni weekend](#) honored our first graduating class from 1976. It was truly inspirational to meet so many of our original, pioneering Purchase students and to hear directly from them about what made Purchase so special then—and how the original spirit of Purchase endures to this day.

Faculty excellence on the stage, screen, and field

Professor Elise Lemire was a lead scholar on the [PBS documentary series *Henry David Thoreau*](#), executive produced by Ken Burns, highlighting our commitment to public scholarship.

The spring 2026 semester culminated in an ambitious slate of [GRAHAM100 events](#) directed by Assistant Professor Martin Lofsnes, former principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company.

[Professor Adam Birnbaum](#) was invited as a Guest Artist at the Jazz Education Network Conference, where he performed alongside Purchase students.

Professor Allyson Jackson and the Environmental Studies Department hosted a campus-wide [Arbor Day celebration](#), including the chance to learn about our campus forest and participate in our campus reforestation projects.

Interfaith Center Now Open

The [Beloved Commons Interfaith Center](#) is now open to all members of the community for reflection, prayer, and spiritual practice. We thank SUNY for a grant that supported this effort, and we also are grateful and our Interfaith Council members for their leadership.

Guerrilla Girls On View at the Neuberger Museum

The [Neuberger Museum of Art's](#) exhibit “Guerrilla Girls: Food for Thought,” focuses on the the anonymous feminist art collective who has spent four decades raising awareness about inequality in the arts. The opening featured a fascinating conversation with an original member of the group who answered questions from two student curatorial interns. The exhibit is on view until August 2.

Economics Wunderkind is Purchase Alum

Alum Derick Ansah '17 (economics) was recently featured on the cover of the [Wunderkind issue of Westchester Magazine's 914 Inc.](#), in recognition of his career in finance and his community service.

Welcoming next year's class

We hosted hundreds of students at our [Accepted Students Days](#). And as of May 1, Decision Day, interest in Purchase continues to thrive. Our new students are excited to join our unique

community, get involved with clubs and activities on campus, and dive directly into their studies. I look forward to welcoming them in the fall along with other incoming first year and transfer students!

Pathways to Purchase

This semester, we've been creating and sustaining additional pathways to Purchase. Over the past few weeks, we launched a new, [enhanced partnership with Rockland Community College](#), hosted an event celebrating our partnership with [Yonkers Partners in Education](#), and we're busy planning another exciting event with the Yonkers Public Schools for June 8.

Alumni Visitors

We are always delighted to welcome alumni back to campus! Over the past two months, in addition to those who came back from alumni weekend, we had several exciting alumni come back to campus to pass on their wisdom to students including film editor [Andrew Buckland](#), director [Chris Wedge](#), and puppeteer/actor [James Ortiz](#), [Rocky in Project Hail Mary!](#) As Rocky would say Amaze, Amaze, Amaze!

Sharing News and Staying Connected

If you have news, accolades, or stories to share or plan to visit, 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](#) [@purchasecollege](#)

Follow us on LinkedIn at: [President Steiper](#) [Purchase College](#)

Good news! We've recently revived our [TikTok account](#). Follow us there for the latest trends and behind-the-scenes videos.

Don't forget to tag us in your own Purchase related content and use the hashtags [#purchasecollege](#) and [#sunypurchase](#) for all content and [#proofofpurchase](#) for alumni stories.

Have a wonderful summer!