

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

126
NO. 42A
FOR RELEASE:
MAY 13, 1971

FACT SHEET

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT PURCHASE

The College at Purchase will be a liberal arts campus comprising a College of Letters and Science offering Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees, and a professional School of the Arts offering Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees as well as Certificates in Music, Dance, Theatre, Film, Television and the Visual Arts. The campus is located in Westchester County, forty minutes from New York City, on a rural estate of more than five hundred acres.

Purchase will admit its first regular students in September, 1971. These will be limited to 200 transfer students at the junior level with the first freshmen admitted in the fall of 1972. Seven hundred new students will be admitted that year including 200 transfer students. The College will reach its maximum enrollment of approximately 6,000 in 1980. The College of Letters and Science will enroll approximately eighty per cent of the students and the professional School of the Arts approximately twenty per cent.

As a new institution, Purchase is aware of its responsibility to think freshly about all aspects of college life and education. In the design of curricula and in the development of student life, the College will attempt to be as innovative and experimental as is consistent with the highest quality of education.

To permit greater curricular flexibility and to allow students greater freedom in the pursuit of special interests, the College planners are studying the adoption of an unusual academic calendar. Each semester would be divided into two terms: a long term consisting of twelve weeks of classes during which a student would perform three-fourths of the semester's work, and a four-week period in which he would concentrate intensively on a single course or project. Thus a student could enjoy several different kinds of educational ex-

(more)

perience within the academic year.

THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

Purchase expects to be a selective institution. Among the important qualities that we will look for in candidates for the College of Letters and Science are intellectual curiosity, independence of mind, maturity of purpose and an understanding of the importance of learning as an end in itself as well as an instrument of social progress. We will do our best to prepare well those students who intend to go into specialized graduate work. We will also encourage those who seek to integrate their special disciplines with other fields of learning.

The College of Letters and Science recognizes its obligation to develop a humane and imaginative admissions policy. We will attempt to make an accurate appraisal of the student's actual academic potential when he applies, rather than rely solely on past achievement as an indicator of success. The College of Letters and Science will seek out men and women of high scholarship and research ability who are first-rate teachers, giving high priority to faculty members who have the intellectual and cultural breadth to conceive and carry out fresh and exciting interdisciplinary programs. At the same time, the College is firmly committed to the principle that the student bears the greatest responsibility for his education. The curriculum will be designed to allow students maximum flexibility in pursuit of special interests. Accordingly, we shall make the fullest possible use of those advances in technology which will enable students to pursue their studies independently. A wide variety of programmed instruction including audio-visual materials will be available, and instructional facilities and dormitories will be provided with outlets for computer terminals, tape machines and other kinds of instructional equipment.

The College of Letters and Science will ultimately be housed in three separate facilities: the Humanities, Natural Science and Social Science buildings. The Humanities building will include, in addition to the usual classrooms and auditoria, a large number

(more)

of seminar rooms. Faculty offices will be large enough to hold small seminar-tutorial groups. The building will incorporate a modern auto-instructional laboratory designed to provide programmed instruction in foreign languages and in other academic areas. The Natural Sciences building will be a completely up-to-date research and instructional facility. It is scheduled for occupancy by September, 1973 and the Social Sciences building is to be completed by September, 1973.

THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The School of the Arts will provide professional education for gifted students in the fields of dance, film, music, theatre, television and visual arts. Our programs will emphasize the relationships among the various art forms by encouraging students to involve themselves in other areas of the arts that have a close and fruitful relationship to their own fields. As an integral part of a liberal arts campus, the School of the Arts will not only seek to provide the high degree of concentration essential to artistic growth but will also encourage students to pursue humane and scientific studies.

All students in the School of the Arts will receive a Certificate of accomplishment upon the satisfactory completion of their professional training in their chosen art, and under certain circumstances it will be possible for a student to limit his efforts to achieving this professional certificate. Most students in the School, however, will also be candidates for the B.F.A. degree. At such time as faculty resources and facilities become available, graduate work leading to the M.F.A. will be offered.

Purchase's professional programs in the arts will offer a number of distinctive features. Instruction, based upon the master teacher-apprentice concept, will be provided by a faculty drawn primarily from the ranks of successful practicing artists. In addition, students in the performing arts will have the unusual opportunity of becoming part of on-going residential companies housed in the Performing Arts Center. For students in the visual arts, a museum with a distinguished collection of modern American art will provide continued firsthand exposure to the works of well known painters and sculptors.

(more)

STUDENT LIFE

Because of its varied student body, its wide range of instruction and its unusual amount of professional activity in the arts, Purchase expects its extra-curricular activities to be culturally richer and more interesting than those found on many liberal arts campuses. The College hopes to provide its community of artists and scholars with all the resources necessary for a meaningful cultural, intellectual and social environment. Students in Letters and Science will be encouraged to pursue extra-curricular activities in the arts. An intensive program of plays, concerts, dance recitals, film series, art exhibitions and lecture series will draw on faculty and student resources, as well as on outside professionals.

Dormitory facilities are designed to be as informal as possible and will have dining halls, recreational spaces, study carrels and rehearsal areas in an effort to create a community in which living and learning are integrated. To further achieve this end all commuting students will be affiliated with one of the resident halls.

Student activity facilities will be scattered across the campus to encourage the mingling of students and faculty and to provide a closer sense of community life. In addition to conventional student union facilities and services, the campus will provide special facilities ranging from campus pubs to an Athenaeum, a quiet cultural and intellectual meeting place for students and faculty.

The physical recreation program will emphasize sports as a social activity as well as an essential component of physical health and well being. The College will encourage individual rather than group sports and will offer instruction especially in those that have a carry-over value into adult life. The physical recreation building has been designed to have a club-like atmosphere rather than the air of a typical gymnasium and will be close to both residential and academic areas.

THE LIBRARY

To emphasize its importance to all segments of the College, the Library will occupy

(more)

a building in the center of the campus. The collection will include over half a million volumes and a centralized audio-visual center. It is being carefully designed to support the academic programs in the College of Letters and Science, and will also have special strengths in the visual and performing arts to support the highly specialized programs in the School of the Arts.

The Library is participating in regional cooperative systems which will enrich the services and materials available to students and faculty at Purchase. In addition, it has been designated a depository for New York State and Federal Government documents.

THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Four major theatres will serve the divisions of Dance, Music and Theatre Arts. In addition to providing excellent facilities for concerts, theatrical productions and dance performances, the theatres incorporate special provisions for opera, film and mixed media productions. Although each theatre has been designed for optimal use in one art form, it is capable of effective utilization by the other divisions, for the interdependence of the performing arts has been a constant concern of the planners.

The largest theatre will seat 1400 and has been designed for visiting as well as resident groups. It will be the principal auditorium for orchestra, opera, ballet, large scale presentations and major film offerings.

A 750-seat theatre will be unique in that the stage will extend forward along the side walls of the auditorium, making it possible partially to surround the audience with performers. The third theatre with 500 seats has been designed for solo student performers, public lecture-demonstrations, undergraduate recitals and productions as well as for individual performances in music and dance.

The fourth theatre will be a truly experimental space for creative playwrights and performers in theatre and dance. It will have no fixed seating arrangement, so that performance and spectator areas may vary from production to production.

The aim of the planners has been to provide a space for the presentation of work from

(more)

the pre-proscenium stage of early theatre through the theatrical and mixed media experiments of the future.

ROY R. NEUBERGER MUSEUM OF VISUAL ARTS

The Museum of Visual Arts will be a lively center serving both the academic community and the general public. It has been designed with a great variety of exhibition galleries and outdoor sculpture courts for the presentation of a series of changing art exhibitions and artistic events throughout the year. It will be a working museum, and an integral part of the educational program for the College. There will be special work and study-storage space for seminars and graduate research.

The Museum will be named in honor of Roy R. Neuberger who has generously donated his famous collection of twentieth century American art. This initial gift will constitute the nucleus of a permanent collection, which will be a rich resource for the College and the community.

Further information on the College and its programs may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Judith Glazer, Coordinator of Community Services, at (914) 253-5000.

ADMINISTRATION

President

Abbott Kaplan. B.S., B.J.P., Jewish Theological Seminary. M.A., Ph.D., Columbia. Formerly: Associate Dean of Fine Arts and Professor of Theatre Arts, UCLA; Director, University Extension, Southern Division, University of California and Associate Dean (statewide), University of California; Associate Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA.

Vice President - Academic Affairs

Frank W. Wadsworth, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Princeton. Formerly: Dean of Humanities and Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh. Guggenheim Fellow, Folger Shakespeare Library Fellow.

Vice President - Visual and Performing Arts and Administration

John W. Straus. A.B., Harvard University. Formerly: Vice President, Macy's N.Y. Member of Board of Trustees -- Fogg Art Museum, College Art Association, Mannes College of Music, American Federation of Arts, School of General Studies, Columbia University, The Browning School, Hillside Hospital, The Chamber Music Society.

(more)

ADMINISTRATION (continued)Dean of Humanities

Carl P. Resek. B.A., University of Wisconsin; Ph.D., University of Rochester. Formerly: Professor of History and Chairman of the Social Sciences Department, Sarah Lawrence College. Guggenheim Fellow.

Dean of Natural Sciences

Curtis A. Williams. B.S., Pennsylvania State University; Ph.D., Rutgers University. Currently Associate Professor in Biochemical Genetics, Rockefeller University. Waksman Fellow, Pasteur Institute, Paris. Public Health Service Fellow, Carlsberg Laboratory, Copenhagen.

Dean of Dance

William Bales. B.A., Carnegie Institute of Technology. B.S., University of Pittsburgh. Formerly: Chairman, Dance Department, Bennington College. Member U.S. State Department's Cultural Exchange Program and National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

Dean of Visual Arts

Gibson A. Danes. B.F.A., Art Institute of Chicago; B.A., M.A., Northwestern; Ph.D., Yale; D.F.A. (Hon.), Lake Erie. Formerly: Dean, School of Art and Architecture, Yale University.

Dean of Music

Michael Hammond. B.A., Lawrence College, Wisconsin; B.A., M.A., Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar). Formerly: Director, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and Conductor, Milwaukee Civic Symphony Orchestra.

Dean of Theatre Arts

Norris Houghton. A.B., Princeton; D.F.A. (Hon.) Denison. Founder and co-managing director, Phoenix Theatre, New York. Formerly: Chairman, Drama Department of Vassar College. Guggenheim Fellow and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Director of the Library

Robert Evans. Ph.B., M.A., University of Chicago. Formerly: Associate Librarian, Oberlin College. Formerly: Head Librarian, Muskingum College.

Director of Facilities

Norman D. Taylor. B.Arch., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; M. Arch., University of Illinois; Reg. Architect, New York State; NCARB Certificate. Formerly: Central Administration, SUNY; architectural practice, Portland, Me.; Instructor in Architecture, University of Illinois.

Director of Roy R. Neuberger Museum of Visual Arts

Bryan Robertson, O.B.E. Formerly: Director of Whitechapel Gallery, London; Art Critic of Spectator (London) and New Statesman; author, BBC-TV lecturer.

Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501 -7504.
