

## Contents

### New at Goucher

- [Admissions Goes Paperless](#)
- [Community Reading Project 2012: 'The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian'](#)
- [Philosophy Club Searching for Papers](#)

### Upcoming Events

- [Flu Vaccination for Faculty and Staff](#)
- [Lessons and Carols](#)
- [African Drum and Dance Concert](#)
- [Musical Theatre Performance](#)
- [Goucher Jazz Ensemble](#)
- [Playworks](#)
- [Computer Music](#)
- [Free Pilates Classes](#)

### [Kudos](#)

### [Goucher in the News](#)

## New at Goucher

### Admissions Goes Paperless

This semester, Goucher's Office of Admissions has been laying the groundwork and implementing a system to go paperless with the application process. The move jibes with the ways prospective students are already submitting applications materials, and it has the potential of streamlining and "greenifying" the admissions process.

According to Corky Surbeck, director of admissions, Goucher already gets 98 or 99 percent of prospective students' application materials electronically, including applications, transcripts, teacher recommendations, miscellaneous documentation, secondary school reports, and guidance counselor recommendations.



Until now, admissions operations staff had to take everything they received electronically and print it out to create each applicant's file. Considering each applicant's folder is 25-40 pages, and Goucher had about 3,700 applicants last year, this means Admissions staff were printing nearly 100,000, pages of documents each admissions cycle.

### [LINKS:](#)

[Events at Goucher](#)

[News](#)

[Goucher Athletics](#)

[Goucher Homepage](#)

[Goucher Facebook Page](#)

[Digest Newsletter Archive](#)

[Digest Deadline](#)

For expediency in work flow, Daniele Bananto, senior programmer/analyst in Information Technology, would routinely begin her day at 5:30 a.m. by remotely accessing Goucher's network so that by the time everyone got to the office, most everything would be printed out. At times, this literally created stacks of paper that were several feet high.

What's more is that these documents also had to be assembled, sorted, labeled, alphabetized, and filed. All told, the traditional process — while operative — came with a bloated expense of money and time.

Bananto said Admission staffers began thinking, "We're already getting this info electronically, so why not file it electronically, too?"

According to Surbeck, there was also the impetus to do away with what was "not a very 'green' process."

Once the decision was made to implement a paperless application review process, Goucher's IT Department was called in to research possibilities. Three vendors were chosen to give presentations. The Admissions team decided to go with the software Image Now, a product of the company Perceptive Software that is also used by Towson University, Loyola University of Maryland, Colby-Sawyer College, and NYU, among other colleges and universities.

Since then, the paperless process has been implemented quickly, but successfully, according to Bananto, and there is no longer the need to print out any documents at all.

Because students can only apply to Goucher using the Common Application, a standardized first-year application form that is used by more than 400 higher-education institutions, all applications and school forms can be — and are — sent electronically. Every day, the Admissions operations staff get an electronic download of these files. However, instead of having to print out and manage all of these documents, all of the information is directed electronically into the proper file for the correct student. The system also updates everything in PowerCampus, which is Goucher's Admissions operating system.

The result is a centralized system that can be cross-referenced and that allows multiple people to look at the same file at the same time. Giving more people access to the information eliminates some inconvenience of the previous system, such as when a file was in use during the applicant's campus visit.

Increased access also means Admissions staff can provide students and their families with better customer service, according to Cyndy Cowles, assistant director and coordinator of operations for Admissions. If there is a call about a particular applicant's status, the information is more visible to more people, so calls can be answered more readily.

Additionally, Admissions folks can log on to the system from remote locations, which would be a boon in the event of a major weather event, such as the blizzards two years ago that interrupted Goucher's admissions applicant review timeline. With the paperless system, "Everything would still get submitted, get filed, and counselors could sit in front of the fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate and read the apps from their laptops," said Bananto.

The paperless application review process also features an e-form that is used to summarize

the contents of the application. This e-form, created in-house by Cindy VanElls in IT, contains pre-populated data stored in each student's PowerCampus record and provides space for those evaluating the application to record essential information. Previously, all of this information used to be written out in longhand, a result of reviewing paper documents and multiple PowerCampus screens.

The new software also has very, very good security, according to Bananto. There is little threat of cyber security breaches, and the system can only be accessed after secure electronic permissions have been created. Image Now software stores data in virtual drawers, where access can be controlled at the unique document level within each application file. Further, workflows have been designed with customer service and quality assurance in mind. This level of record management was impossible with the paper files.

Cowles believes the most important benefits of going paperless are the increased efficiency, accuracy, and organization that the new system provides.

Clearly, however, with this streamlining also comes a boost to Goucher's current environmental sustainability initiatives, as well as substantial cost savings for the college in all aspects of admissions application processing—including supplies, labor, time, and talent. Surbeck says he and others look forward to taking those savings and investing them in other endeavors that will benefit admissions and retention programming at Goucher College.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Community Reading Project 2012: 'The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian'**

Goucher students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie over winter break and participate in an informal, non-mandatory book discussion at the start of next semester.

Free copies of the book will be available at several locations around campus. Take a copy and read it for fun during break. When you're finished, please return it so others can read and participate.

More information will be forthcoming about the informal book discussions that will be held at various times and locations at the start of the spring semester.

Alexie's semiautobiographical novel stars Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw.

When a teacher pleads with him to want more, to escape the hopelessness of the reservation, Junior switches to a rich white school and immediately becomes as much an outcast in his own community as he is a curiosity in his new one. He weathers the typical teenage indignations and triumphs like a champ but soon faces far more trying ordeals as his home life begins to crumble amid the suffocating mire of alcoholism on the reservation.



Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes community, identity, and tribe. His determination to improve himself and overcome poverty—despite the handicaps of birth, circumstances, and race—delivers a positive message.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Philosophy Club Searching for Papers**

Goucher's philosophy club, Veritas, in collaboration with the Goucher Philosophy Department, invites undergraduate submissions for the ninth annual Goucher College Philosophy Conference, which will be held Saturday, April 7, 2012.

Those interested must fill out a cover sheet (with name, e-mail, phone, school, title of submission, and a three- to five-sentence abstract) and submit it, with the finished paper, to [veritas@goucher.edu](mailto:veritas@goucher.edu) by January 31, 2012.

Students may submit more than one paper for consideration, and all papers must be prepared for blind review with all contact information and identifying marks removed from the body of the paper. If submitting more than one paper, please include additional cover sheets for each paper.

Papers can be on any philosophical topic and a maximum of 12 pages for a 20-minute presentation. The paper format is 12-point, double-spaced, and Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins.

Keynote speaker for the conference is Lisa Guenther, assistant professor of philosophy at Vanderbilt University. Guenther researches mainly in phenomenology, feminism, contemporary continental philosophy, and social and political thought.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Flu Vaccination for Faculty and Staff**

The Student Health and Counseling Center is offering the flu vaccine to faculty and staff starting December 5 until the end of the school year or until supplies run out. The vaccine is available for \$20 at the Student Health and Counseling Center any day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Payment is by cash or checks only. Please call 410-337-6050 for an appointment.

### **Lessons and Carols**

The Goucher Chorus and Goucher Chaplain's Office present the annual service Monday, December 5, at 5 p.m. in the Haebler Memorial Chapel.

### **African Drum and Dance Concert**

The Goucher African Drum and Dance Ensemble, directed by Kwame Brew, performs its winter concert Monday, December 5, at 8 p.m. in the Hyman Forum in the Athenaeum.

### ***The Fantasticks*, Musical Theatre Performance**

The Goucher Musical Theatre Workshop will present one of the best-loved musicals of all time, *The Fantasticks*. Written in 1960, it is a comedy about a boy and a girl falling in love, falling out of love, and finally coming back together, much the wiser for having experienced life with the aid of some memorable characters. The show is Tuesday, December 6, through Wednesday, December 7, at 8 p.m. in the Merrick Lecture Hall. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and free for Goucher students with an ID.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

The Goucher Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Professor Jeffrey Chappell, will perform a program of standard jazz repertoire and original compositions Thursday, December 8, at 8 p.m. in the Merrick Lecture Hall.

## **Playworks**

The Theatre Department presents an evening of one-act plays. Student producers, playwrights, directors, actors, and designers worked together to create contemporary theatre that will be presented Thursday, December 8, through Saturday, December 10. The event is at 8 p.m. in the Mildred Dunnock Theatre. General admission is \$3. To reserve a ticket, call the Mildred Dunnock Box Office at 410-337-6512 or find more information [here](#).

## **Computer Music**

A digital and multimedia concert presenting the work of Goucher students, faculty, and guests will be presented on Friday, December 9, at 8 p.m. in the Merrick Lecture Hall.

## **Free Pilates Classes**

The Pilates Center will celebrate the birthday of Joseph Pilates in December by offering free introductory pilates mat classes. The Pilates method of body conditioning is a system based on a unique series of exercises to develop and improve strength, stretch, and control. The classes, available either Monday, December 12, at 7:15 p.m. or Saturday, December 17, at 3 p.m. are in the SRC Pilates Mat studio. They are free and open to the public, but participants must register at [www.goucher.edu/pilates](http://www.goucher.edu/pilates) or by calling 410-337-6469.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Kudos**

**Kelly Carr '06** and her writing partner Brian Grow have won the Foreign Press Association Media Award 2011 for financial/economic reporting for a special report on the use of U.S. shell and shelf companies. Carr is the senior online producer at Arizona State University's Reynolds Center. She has worked as a reporter for several newspapers, most recently *The Arizona Republic*, and has been an adjunct professor at ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Librarian **Nancy Magnuson** and the Goucher College library were recently mentioned in the acknowledgements of historical fiction book *The Mysterious Death of Miss Austen* by Lindsay Ashford. The book is based on a premise that Austen may have died from arsenic poisoning. Magnuson and coworkers pored over materials in the Jane Austen Collection at Goucher College, finding no evidence of arsenic testing in a lock of the famed author's hair while it was briefly in the possession of Henry and Alberta Hirschheimer Burke. The Burkes later donated rare Austen editions and related books about the author's life and times, as well as personal correspondence and memorabilia to the college in 1975.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Goucher in the News**

[Check out the latest media coverage of Goucher College and its community members.](#)

["The Anchoring Effect: How to Save Investors From Inertia"](#)

[From Advisor One](#), November 28, 2011

[Abstract: Goucher College Professor of Finance Victor Ricciardi—who has done extensive research in the fields of behavioral finance and the psychology of risk— talks about why some people don't adjust their retirement portfolios, even when it is in their best interest to do so.](#)

[For more news stories, check out the Goucher in the Media section of Goucher's website.](#)

[Back to Top](#)

-

**Digest Deadline:** The deadline for submissions for the January 23 issue of the Goucher Digest is Wednesday, January 18. Send all submissions to [digesteditor@goucher.edu](mailto:digesteditor@goucher.edu).

-

The *Goucher Digest* is published regularly by the Goucher College Office of Communications.

Volume 3, Issue 8