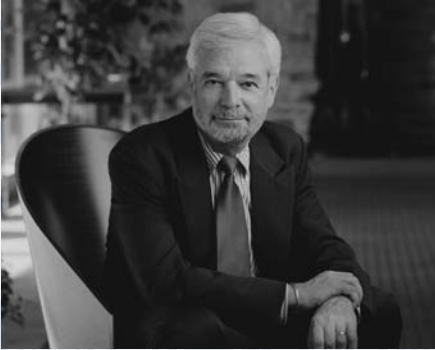


Dear friends and colleagues, alumnae/i, and other members of Goucher's extended family,

The next time you visit our campus, it may look very different from the last time you saw it.



**The President's Letter
Fall 2007**

The President's Letter is published on an occasional basis by Goucher College.

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In October, we will launch the public phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign for the college—in characteristic Goucher style.

Where there used to be a grassy expanse between Alumnae/i House and the new residence hall (known temporarily, for its shape, as “the T”), there is a construction site. A large area of ground has been cleared. Bulldozers and trucks and other heavy machines rumble across it throughout the day. The part of the Loop Road that used to run up to the traffic circle in front of Mary Fisher Hall is gone for good. So, for that matter, is the traffic circle itself. Fences encircle the entire area, a sizable portion of our central campus.

It will be like this for much of the next two years. It will be noisy at times. It will be dusty when the weather is dry and muddy when it rains. We may all have to learn alternate routes to some of our regular destinations around campus.

But we will also be among the first to see something rather amazing taking shape. We will have front-row seats for the next stage in Goucher's evolution. We will be present as the most visible manifestation of the Strategic Plan—the roadmap we created together, as a community, to guide Goucher College into a new era of innovation and distinction—rises from the earth and becomes real.

The Athenaeum, at long last, is underway.

Many of you reading this letter know exactly what the Athenaeum is and have heard me describe it countless times before. You may feel free to skip to the next section. For those who are not yet familiar with the project—the members of the incoming Class of 2011, for example, and their families—I'll offer a brief description. Anchored by a brand-new, technologically advanced library, the Athenaeum will be an expansive center for intellectual, cultural, and social activity on the Goucher campus. It will also include an art gallery, a center for community service and multicultural affairs, a commuter commons, a café, exercise space, headquarters for the Goucher student radio station, and places designed just to enable people to get together and talk. A forum at its heart will host lectures, performances, and other public events. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, it will be the lively crossroads at which the wide-ranging interests, passions, and perspectives of the members of our community intersect.

The Athenaeum will open its doors in two years, in the fall of 2009. In the meantime, you can learn more about it—and watch it being built in real time—on our website at www.goucher.edu/athenaeum.

Celebrating the Community We Have Built

When we broke ground for the Athenaeum last April, we celebrated—just as we will celebrate when we open its doors for the first time.

More than a celebration of the beginning of the new building, the groundbreaking was an expression of the kind of community we have built here at Goucher College. Throughout the process of

envisioning and planning the Athenaeum, people from every corner of our community came together to lend us their thoughts on what it should include, how it should work, what it should be. In many cases, their recommendations became part of the design, and we hit upon innovative ideas that we might not have otherwise, including ways to make it an environmentally responsible “green” building.

At the same time, a core network of supporters was coming together to make the project financially possible. Their numbers include alumnae from as far back as the 1930s, as well as more recent graduates of the college, a prominent Baltimore foundation, and a United States Senator. Some of the spaces in the Athenaeum will bear their names: the Sigmund and Mary Bloom Hyman ’71 Forum; the Sidney and Jean Flah Silber ’54 Art Gallery; the G. Bradford and Joan Hood Jones ’77 Commuter Commons; the Anne Merrick Pinkard ’46 Community Service Center; and Alice’s Restaurant, named for Alice Falvey Greif ’51, one of Goucher’s most outspoken advocates and benefactors.

Many of the Athenaeum’s supporters joined us at the groundbreaking in April, celebrating alongside some of the students, faculty, and others who will be among the first to make use of the building when it opens. It was a remarkable illustration of the degree to which the entire project has been a partnership among people whose relationships with Goucher span the eras of the college’s history.

Of course, making connections of this sort is what the Athenaeum has been all about from the beginning. It is a reflection of Goucher’s traditions and of the ideals to which we have dedicated ourselves, of our commitment to the intellectual vibrancy of life on our campus and to fostering an environment in which people of a variety of backgrounds and perspectives feel encouraged to engage each other at many different levels and in many different ways.

Transcending Boundaries: The Campaign for Goucher College

We will have another opportunity to come together—to celebrate and support Goucher College—very soon.

In October, we will launch the public phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign that will enable us to realize many of the objectives of our Strategic Plan. And we will do so in characteristic Goucher style. We will present a public address by a major speaker, engaging our community in a timely discussion about current affairs. We will host an internationally themed concert that will have people dancing in the aisles of Kraushaar Auditorium. And we will honor our supporters and invite new ones into the fold with a gala kickoff event. Further details will be forthcoming very soon.

All of this will fall just a week after Family Weekend and at the end of Fusion, a weeklong exploration of diversity-related issues through lectures, public dialogue, performances, and other events. The timing is no accident. We wanted to launch the campaign when all eyes will be on Goucher, when the campus will be energized by all of the people coming to visit and all of the discussions taking place, when everyone will be able to see this place at its very best.

The campaign—titled, like our Strategic Plan, “Transcending Boundaries”—will touch the lives of everyone associated with Goucher College in one way or another, and encompass everything that Goucher stands for and all aspects of its operations. Its effects will be felt in every corner of our campus and throughout the population of Goucher students, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, families, and friends. The terminology we are using to describe this effort—a comprehensive campaign—is very deliberate.

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What we seek is transformation: of the college, of its place in the higher education landscape, of the higher education landscape itself. We aim to lead the way toward a new approach to educating the global citizens of tomorrow that verses them well in the deep traditions of liberal learning as it has been practiced for centuries, while introducing them to pathbreaking, even revolutionary ways of connecting with the communities around them—local, national, and international—through top-quality study-abroad, service-learning, and internship opportunities all over the world. At the same time, we seek to create on campus a community that reflects the diversity of the world beyond, and an environment that blurs the lines between living and learning through co-curricular events and programs that engage our students in challenging and illuminating explorations of a vast range of topics both contemporary and perennial. And, of course, we are reshaping the physical landscape of our campus to support our objectives with facilities that draw on the most current technology and the best thinking about the way people research, explore, learn, analyze, and interact today.

We have dug deep into Goucher's roots to ensure that the initiatives we are undertaking and the new directions we are exploring not only are in keeping with this institution's proud and distinguished traditions, but also represent a natural progression from them. Still, there is no question that the college will be changed by our efforts. The campaign is your chance to play a role in determining how Goucher will look at the end of this phase of its evolution.


There are funding opportunities in every area. We are seeking gifts that will enable us to create new endowed professorships in a variety of disciplines, to support the development of still more innovative study-abroad opportunities, and to help us establish a robust program in environmental studies. We seek to fund new scholarships—both to attract and retain the best and brightest students and to ensure that, even as tuition costs rise, Goucher remains affordable for students across the socioeconomic spectrum. We seek support for the highly successful Educational Opportunity Program that has begun to increase access to Goucher among Maryland students with great academic promise but severely limited financial means. We seek support for our library, our athletic programs, our stellar collaborative research programs, our outstanding series of lectures, performances, concerts, and other public events. The list goes on. And, of course, our doors are always open to donors with big ideas of their own about initiatives that advance our objectives in ways that we have perhaps not yet imagined ourselves.

We have set an ambitious goal of \$80 million. We are confident that we can reach this goal—and, in fact, we believe that we will exceed it. But in order to do so, we will need the help of everyone who believes in this college, everyone whose life has been improved by his or her connection with it, everyone who shares our ideas and ideals for higher education in the twenty-first century.

The beauty of the Goucher community is that it is full of people who think broadly and big, who have a vast array of passions, and who dedicate themselves unreservedly to the causes in which they believe. We are reaching out to our community now as never before. We are asking you to believe in Goucher, and to make this college one of the causes you strongly support. We are asking you to join us as we begin this monumental effort to realize at last the objectives to which we have committed ourselves, and to elevate Goucher College into the vanguard of visionary educational institutions for our time.

A New Year, Full of New Promise and New Opportunities

Even as we prepare for the launch of the “Transcending Boundaries” campaign and look ahead to the more sweeping goals we hope to attain, life at Goucher goes on as



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usual—full of energy, excitement, and eager anticipation of the things to which we can look forward in the more immediate future.

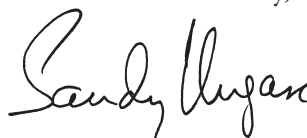
As always, we will welcome our incoming class of first-year students—an impressive group of about 400— and a bumper crop of transfers with all manner of events, activities, and programs designed to make them feel at home in our community and get them charged up for the wild and deeply satisfying educational journey they are about to begin. We have continued our tradition of assigning our new students a book to read over the summer. This year we chose *The Death of Vishnu*, a haunting meditation on questions of class and prejudice, material and spiritual wealth, and, of course, life and death. The author, Manil Suri, is a mathematician, and *The Death of Vishnu*, his debut novel, earned him a nomination for the PEN/Faulkner Award. As is our custom, he will join us for a public discussion of the book at the beginning of the academic year, and I think the whole program encapsulates quite pleasingly the kind of happening that characterizes life-as-usual at Goucher: an opportunity for people from within our campus and beyond to join a figure of inspiring intellectual range and curiosity in considering ideas and issues big enough to eclipse perceived differences between beliefs, philosophies, religions, and national identities. When we talk about transcending boundaries, this is exactly what we mean.

September will also mark the kickoff of a year of new emphasis on the ecological concerns of our campus and curriculum—and for this I give a great deal of credit to our students. As the college itself has worked slowly toward implementing programs in support of the environmental aims outlined in our Strategic Plan, student groups such as Earthworks, the Global Climate Action Group, the Hug Club, and our Student Government Association have taken up the cause, raising funds for a variety of ecological initiatives running the gamut from solar lighting for our campus walkways to a series of public events and programs scheduled for September. There are some details yet to be confirmed, but keep your eyes on our website for much more information coming soon.

The new academic year will also bring with it additions to our suite of study-abroad offerings, as Goucher students travel to Vietnam, Puerto Rico, and several other destinations for new Intensive Courses Abroad, and to Australia for a new semester-long program there. In November, we will host George Stephanopoulos, anchor of *This Week* and chief Washington correspondent for ABC News, as our guest in the ongoing President's Forum series. The public launch of the "Transcending Boundaries" campaign will bring still more notable names to our campus, and, of course, the Athenaeum will continue taking shape in our midst.

We are building toward great things here at Goucher, and I am glad to have you with us as we do.

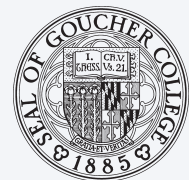
Sincerely,



Sanford J. Ungar

President

We are asking you to believe in Goucher College, and to make it one of the causes you strongly support.



If you would like to contact Sanford J. Ungar, please write to him at president@goucher.edu or Goucher College 1021 Dulaney Valley Road Baltimore, Maryland 21204 www.goucher.edu