

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



**The President's Letter
July 2008**

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

If you would like to contact Sanford J. Ungar, please write him at:

Goucher College
1021 Dulaney Valley Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21204
or
president@goucher.edu

We have a core of dedicated donors who are helping us make the campaign a success and our dream a reality. These friends and benefactors understand the positive impact Goucher College has on the world, and we are grateful for their support.

Last month, as I presided over my seventh Goucher spring commencement, I marveled that this event feels so remarkably new and fresh each time. I have to believe it's because every graduating class has its own unique vitality, and each graduate brings his or her own individual sense of possibility to this important ritual. After their four years of study, exploration, and growth, our Goucher graduates are on the threshold of boundless possibilities. You'll see what I mean when, later in this letter, I share with you the post-graduation plans of some of this year's many notable seniors.

This past spring was also a time for me to reconnect with Goucher people from across the country at our Alumnae/i Weekend in May. More than 550 graduates, family, and friends—the largest group ever—gathered for a weekend of friendship, renewal, and just plain fun. One of the highlights was a panel discussion featuring Professor Eli Velder, who is celebrating his 50th year at Goucher. I'll tell you more about that shortly.

Many alumnae/i commented on the obvious progress on construction of the Athenaeum. It is astonishing to watch it change and take shape with each passing day. In addition to the Athenaeum moving forward, this past semester has brought movement on other initiatives outlined in our Strategic Plan and in "Transcending Boundaries: The Campaign for Goucher College."

All in all, life at Goucher has been stimulating in recent days and, as always, full of wonder and even a few surprises.

Transcending Boundaries to Realize Our Vision

During the week of commencement, many parents and other visitors to campus were talking about the progress on creating our new flagship building, the Athenaeum. I recently toured the site, and I have to say that standing inside the structure and watching the walls go up is an inspiring experience. Despite a rather rainy spring, the construction manager, Whiting-Turner, assures us that the scheduled completion date of Fall 2009 stands.

Even before the interior spaces are limned, before the rooftop is "greened," before the exterior walls are clad in copper, stone, glass, and wood, it's an impressive building. But the Athenaeum will be more than just a building—it will be the most prominent and important manifestation of our ideal of the liberal arts, and when it opens in a little more than a year, we will celebrate in suitable style. Stay tuned for news about our plans for the grand opening, the first step in marking Goucher's 125th anniversary.

As many of you know, building the Athenaeum is just one goal of "Transcending Boundaries," the comprehensive campaign through which we seek to make Goucher a standard bearer in liberal arts education. Other campaign goals include increasing support for students, creating new diversity initiatives, strengthening our international and environmental programs, improving our athletic facilities, and doing other things to insure the vibrancy of life on campus.

We have now have raised more than \$61 million, putting us better than three-quarters of the way toward our \$80 million goal. We have a core of dedicated donors who are helping us make the campaign a success and our dream a reality. These friends and benefactors understand the positive impact Goucher College has on the world, and we are grateful for their support.

Moving Forward, According to Plan

With the success of the Transcending Boundaries campaign, we are beginning to see the fruits of a bold Strategic Plan to make Goucher a driving force in liberal arts education. The plan calls for students to leave Goucher with a solid academic background, a broad understanding of the world, an honest appreciation of diverse cultures and people, and a healthy respect for the planet. We've been making strides in all of these areas.

Goucher's study-abroad requirement, which has created a great deal of buzz both on- and off-campus since its inception in 2006, is maturing as a fundamental part of the Goucher curriculum. Our students have studied environmental and cultural sustainability in the mountains of Costa Rica. They have learned the art and science of glassmaking in Romania's world-renowned artisan-glass studios. They have sampled some of the dynamic breadth of Asian history, philosophy, politics, and culture in their travels in China, Vietnam, and India. And they have studied the arts and society in South and West Africa. The multidisciplinary opportunities for international study continue to expand. In fact, earlier this year, Goucher College received the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

I am grateful to Eric Singer, associate dean for international studies, for the comprehensive program he has put together for our students. Beginning this summer, Dr. Singer will embark on a one-year sabbatical, conducting research in South Africa. Fortunately, our provost, Marc Roy, has agreed to run the Office of International Studies as we search for a new associate dean.

In keeping with our aim to energize the living and learning environment at Goucher, we have hired Michael O'Leary as our new vice president for enrollment management. Mr. O'Leary comes to us from George Washington University, where he has held positions of increasing responsibility since 1985. In his various roles there, he has developed and implemented a number of innovative policies for the recruitment of both first-year and transfer students. Mr. O'Leary will work with our very capable directors of admissions and financial aid to solidify Goucher's successes, develop new strategies, coordinate efforts to improve student retention, and enhance the means by which we introduce new students to the college.

Another new face on campus is Ariane de Bremond, Goucher's first visiting scholar in environmental studies. She is leading initiatives to expand the curriculum dealing with ecological issues and creating our new major in environmental studies. Dr. de Bremond will also work with our new Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council, which explores and coordinates solutions to environmental issues raised by members of the Goucher community. You can learn about other efforts underway to make Goucher more "green" by visiting our environmental webpage at www.goucher.edu/green.

Continuing Academic Excellence through Excellent Faculty

Since its founding almost 125 years ago, Goucher has made academic excellence its number-one priority. Over the decades our professors have been able to proclaim with ample proof that Goucher College prepares leaders—leaders in public service and private enterprise and in fields as diverse as dance and math, art and management, English and chemistry. We would not be able to prepare our students for leadership roles, however, if we did not have expert faculty members showing them the way. The professors at Goucher are dedicated, innovative, and inspiring. They truly transform the lives of our students.

One of our faculty members received special accolades this year as he celebrated 50 years of teaching at Goucher. Eli Velder, the Dean John van Meter Professor of Education, was honored in April at a program featuring an inspirational lecture by renowned education advocate and author Jonathan Kozol. During his five decades at Goucher, Dr. Velder has taught an impressive breadth of courses. He was director of Goucher's first graduate program in education and headed the Education Department for eight years. He has also coordinated Goucher's Judaic Studies Program. Dr. Velder says his greatest satisfaction is watching his students grow as critical thinkers and mature into confident professionals.

*Since its founding
almost 125 years ago,
Goucher has made
academic excellence its
number-one priority.*

In other faculty news, I'm excited to tell you that this year, six professors achieved tenure and were promoted to associate professor. They are: Allison Campbell from the Theatre Department; Steven DeCaroli and Margret Grebowicz, both from the Department of Philosophy and Religion; George Greco from the Chemistry Department; Jamie Mullaney from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; and Angelo Robinson from the English Department. I know they will ably carry on Goucher's legacy of superb teaching, academic rigor, and scholarly achievement.

Listening to New and Different Voices

As another academic year comes to a close, I reflect on some of the diverse voices we heard on campus this past semester. I am proud that Goucher College continues to bring in a wide spectrum of speakers who engage members of our community in meaningful discourse. We are committed to challenging our personal tenets by being exposed to different ways of seeing and understanding the world. Diversity and social justice issues are key aspects that shape Goucher's curriculum, co-curricular activities, community governance, and campus culture.

We drew large audiences for speakers such as Ron Paul, the congressman from Texas and Republican presidential candidate, and Alberto Mora, the former general counsel of the U.S. Navy who blew the whistle on the government-sanctioned use of torture as a method of interrogation. In addition, we had panel presentations that addressed issues such as violence in Baltimore and whether the nation's drinking age should be lowered. Visitors to campus frequently tell me how impressed they are with the thoughtful questions raised by our students at public events. We also get compliments for their politeness and graciousness.

Graduation brought several noteworthy figures to Goucher. We gave an honorary degree to Maryland legislator Adrienne Jones, the first African-American woman elected Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Delegates. With passion and a bit of humor, Delegate Jones encouraged our graduates to consider a career in public service. Rev. Dr. Masanobu Fukamachi, chancellor of Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, also received an honorary degree during commencement. Dr. John Franklin Goucher and his wife, Mary Fisher Goucher, donated the funds to purchase the land where Aoyama Gakuin would be built and still stands today. Goucher and Aoyama Gakuin continue to engage in academic exchange and intercultural experiences.

This year's principal commencement speaker was actor-director-writer Matthew Modine, father of a graduating senior. He gave touching—and telling—remarks about how students should approach life after Goucher.


“Now that you have education, I suggest you travel,” he said at one point. “Education and travel open the mind and expose all of our senses to diverse cultures.” Later, Mr. Modine, who accepted an honorary doctorate from Goucher, offered words that I found just as wise and appropriate. “Develop your imagination...” he advised. “Be curious about how things are made and what goes into making them. The best way for you to shape your future is to first imagine your future. Then you can go about designing it.”

Goucher Graduates Designing Their Future

It's no secret that Goucher students are motivated and hard-working, but I continue to be impressed with their pursuit of success and their desire to make the world a better place. This spring, we graduated 318 seniors, many of whom will continue to follow their dreams in extraordinary ways.

There's Zeke Berzoff-Cohen, who was president of the Student Government Association and has joined Teach for America, along with another member of his class. Although he hails from Massachusetts, Zeke is committed to working in inner-city Baltimore's struggling public school system. He told me recently that if there's one thing his Goucher education has taught him, it's the importance of balancing an international perspective with a commitment to being involved locally.

Maggie Wood is using the skills she learned at Goucher to help run her family's bakery business. She is also going to volunteer with a local college, conducting research to determine



*Goucher College
continues to bring
in a wide spectrum
of speakers who
engage members of
our community in
meaningful discourse.*

the effect on the Chesapeake Bay of nitrogen run-off from farms in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Maggie is not the only one inspired by Goucher's environmental efforts. Geoffrey Ecker plans to attend a plant science doctoral program at the University of Connecticut. His research will focus on gene escape from genetically modified crops. Using his undergraduate double major in biology and political science, he will also explore the public policies that regulate the production of genetically modified plants.

Indeed, many students have chosen to go directly to graduate school. Meredith Schmidt will attend Tufts University to pursue a graduate degree in education with an advanced certificate in school psychology. Milena Rodban will take up security studies at Georgetown University. Michael Harmon is attending the University of Baltimore School of Law in part because the atmosphere there reminds him of Goucher.

Some of our graduating seniors were so influenced by their studies abroad that they've decided to continue international exploration. Leah Hashinger is one. She spent a semester in Japan as an undergraduate and is returning there now to teach English in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program.

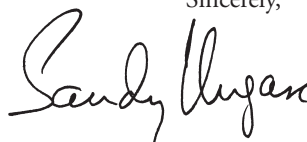
That is just a sampling—I could write many more pages about our amazing students and the journeys they take during their time at Goucher. When they arrive as first-year students, they are often uncertain, even a little guarded. They don't know what to expect. Over the next four years, it is fulfilling to watch them grow into mature adults.

There are always surprises. Students who had lingered on the periphery burst suddenly into the spotlight, having found a discipline that absorbs their energies and releases their great potential. Some students who entered with a singular passion at the center of their lives somehow emerged after four years with degrees in other fields as well. Many surprised themselves with the depth of their emotional connection to this special college, to the friends they made, to the professors who helped design their future.

Watching them walk across the stage, diploma in hand, I know that Goucher has played a role in helping them realize the path in life they want to follow, and that their experience here has helped nurture their self-confidence. At graduation, we present them to the world, eager to make a difference and armed with the resources to make them successful.

As we gear up for the fall semester, I look forward to meeting the members of our incoming class. We have a notable group of about 375 first-year students from all over the country, as well as a bumper crop of transfers. All of these students will become part of our Goucher family. They will experience international study, they will meet new friends, they will learn and grow, and, when they venture out to change the world, we will know that they started right here in this little corner of it.

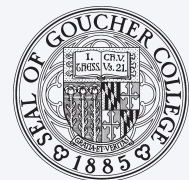
Sincerely,



Sanford J. Ungar

President

Some of our graduating seniors were so influenced by their studies abroad that they've decided to continue international exploration.



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