

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



**The President's Letter  
Winter 2007**

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

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*We have reached a pivotal moment in Goucher's history, and you can help us shape its future.*

It has been some time since my last President's Letter, and for that I must apologize. I enjoy these opportunities to share the latest news about Goucher College, and the conversations and correspondence that follow always give me invaluable insight into the ideas and perspectives of the people who make up our community.

I can assure you that there has been no shortage of exciting news to share about Goucher, and that the days ahead will provide abundant opportunities for rich and wide-ranging discussions about all that has been happening and all that we are gearing up to do.

With the dawn of the new year, we are entering a very important time for this institution. Soon the Board of Trustees will decide when to break ground on the Athenaeum, a magnificent new facility at the heart of our living and learning community. In June, we will welcome a stellar new provost and chief academic officer. In the fall, we will launch a major public fundraising campaign that will enable us to complete our work fulfilling the major objectives of our sweeping strategic plan.

**Three years from now, we will celebrate Goucher's 125th anniversary. We plan to arrive at that historic milestone having renewed the college's reputation as a leader on the national and international higher-education scene, and having equipped ourselves for still greater innovation and achievement.** In the meantime, we will work hard to maintain the momentum we have built over the past several years, and use it to continue enriching the outstanding educational opportunities we offer.

This is a pivotal moment in Goucher's history, and it holds many opportunities for you to intensify your own connection to our community, to share in our successes, to help shape our future, and to take a more active role in the life of the college than ever before. But before I tell you more about what we hope to accomplish in the days, months, and years to come—and how you can take part—allow me first to bring you up to date on what we've been doing since my last letter.

### **Building Momentum & Staking New Claims**

Around this time last year, the atmosphere at Goucher was charged with excitement—but tempered by no small amount of uncertainty. We had announced our pathbreaking decision to require study abroad for all undergraduates, beginning with the class entering in Fall 2006, and to give every one of them a special voucher of \$1,200 to help offset travel expenses. Although we spoke confidently about this bold move, we also knew we were taking a risk. We believed very strongly that the time had come to act on our conviction that substantive international experience is vital to a well-rounded college education. But how would prospective students respond?

As you may have heard, they responded eagerly—even effusively. The class of 451 students that arrived last fall is historic not only because it is the first one subject to the study-abroad requirement, but also because it is the largest that Goucher College has ever welcomed. The addition of 41 new transfer students brought our overall student body to 1,450. By all accounts, our new class is a

very strong one. Its members are bright, lively, and energetic. A great many came to Goucher having already traveled or studied overseas, and those who have not are quite enthusiastic about our new program.

**We launched our study-abroad requirement as part of a thoroughly revised general-education curriculum designed to highlight the institutional ideals and academic fundamentals that form the basis for every Goucher student's education.**

The new curriculum reflects the values we wish to pass along to our students, the skills we believe they must develop, the ways of thinking and communicating we believe they should explore, and the issues we believe they will surely confront. The work we have done to transform our curriculum reflects the strength of our commitment to the quality and integrity of our entire academic program.

Further underlining this commitment, we have created and filled the new position of provost and chief academic officer, replacing the position of academic dean. An eleven-member search committee representing a broad cross-section of the Goucher community conducted an exhaustive search, reviewing more than 100 applications from around the country and around the world, and narrowing the field to three outstanding finalists. In November we chose Marc M. Roy, a biologist, a master teacher, a productive researcher, and an experienced administrator who has served most recently as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Coe College in Iowa.

You will be hearing more about and from Marc as he assumes his new role in the summer, but what's important to understand right now is what his appointment represents for Goucher College. **In our new provost, we sought a visionary.** We wanted to find someone who would be able to strengthen our existing academic offerings, to suggest new directions we might explore, and to inspire our faculty to still-greater levels of accomplishment and innovation. The provost's brief is ambitious, perhaps even daunting: to enable the full realization of our vision for Goucher and bolster the college's standing among the nation's best liberal arts institutions through the excellence of our academic program. I am confident that in Marc Roy, we have found precisely what we were looking for.

### **Making Progress Beyond the Headlines**

Our new study-abroad requirement and our appointment of a new chief academic officer represent major milestones, and they deserve all of the attention they have received. But even as we celebrate what is new and look forward to what is to come, I want to take care not to overlook some important behind-the-scenes work we continue to do in providing a superior educational experience for our students.

**One point of particular pride for me is the exceptional quality of the new faculty we have hired over the past several years.** As professors retire from Goucher or move on to other pursuits, and as the student body grows, we have the opportunity to reinvigorate our distinguished faculty through the talent, accomplishment, and energy of the best young scholars and teachers from across the higher education landscape. The new full-time faculty we welcomed in this academic year alone include an astronomer and physicist who completed his doctorate at Columbia University and a Yale-trained assistant professor of psychology. They include educators who previously taught at Hopkins, Penn State, Cornell, James Madison, and American University. Our new visiting assistant professor of communication and media studies did her doctoral work at the world-renowned School of Cinema and Television at the University of Southern California and wrote the pop-culture section of Princeton University's *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History*. Our new visiting assistant professor of art worked with the photography giants Bruce Weber and Annie Leibovitz. We have a visiting Fulbright Scholar in Arabic and another in Spanish. The list goes on.

*Our study-abroad requirement and the appointment of a provost represent major milestones in the realization of our strategic objectives.*

As we have worked to sustain the high caliber of our academic program, we have also maintained our focus on the diversity of our community. We have launched the Educational Opportunity Program, an initiative designed to broaden access to the benefits of a Goucher education among Maryland students who show the academic promise but lack the financial means to enroll. Thanks to gifts from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and alumnae/i families, participants will receive significant financial assistance throughout their undergraduate years at Goucher, and we have created support systems to help them make the transition into the college environment. The first group of EOP scholars arrived on campus in the fall. Although we have taken care to maintain their anonymity to ensure that they are not singled out in any way as special cases, I have no doubt that they—and those who follow them in coming years—will have a profound influence both here on campus and far beyond.

Adding to the richness and diversity of life at Goucher, we continue to offer some of the best and most eclectic public-affairs and cultural events in the region. In the past year, our guests have included First Amendment lawyer and free-expression champion Floyd Abrams, *New York Times* White House correspondent David Sanger, and acclaimed graphic novelist Marjane Satrapi, whose books tell the rich and complex story of her upbringing in and expatriation from Iran. Just a few months ago, Judith Martin—better known as the famed advice columnist and etiquette maven Miss Manners—engaged us in a provocative discussion about the competing ideals of free speech and civility. In the spring, we will welcome former House Speaker and presumed future presidential candidate Newt Gingrich, celebrated journalist and author Kati Marton, and Bob Woodward, who helped pry open the Watergate scandal a generation ago and who has recently done important work on President George W. Bush and the war in Iraq.

As I said, much has happened since I last wrote.

### **Breaking Ground and Coming Together**

As we look back with pride on all we have achieved over the past few years, we must also remain focused on the objectives ahead. And there is one particularly big project on which we hope to make visible progress very soon.

We have now completed the design of the Athenaeum, and the final plans are a realization of our original vision for the building. **Designed as a distinctive destination that also fits in neatly among our existing buildings and landscape, the Athenaeum will sit between the academic and residential quads—and its features represent precisely the blend of academic, cultural, and social activity we seek to foster on our campus.** At its core will be a spacious and technologically advanced new library. The adjoining forum will be an important addition to the campus venues for public events, performances, and gatherings. A new art gallery will enhance our ability to showcase selections from Goucher's permanent collection and the work of artists from within and outside the college. Students, faculty, staff, and other members of our community will mingle in the Athenaeum's café, lounges, exercise spaces, and outdoor piazza. They will engage one another intellectually in seminar and group-study rooms. Goucher's student radio station will broadcast from within the building. The place will be buzzing twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Every stage of the Athenaeum's development has reflected the perspectives of the great many students, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, trustees, and others who helped us imagine what the Athenaeum could be. When it is complete, it will be the energy of those people—and others like them—that brings the building to life. The financial contributions of some very generous community members have made our progress



*We are blessed with a strong community, and its vigorous support has enabled us to make great progress.*

to this point possible, and we will require additional support along these lines to keep the project moving forward.

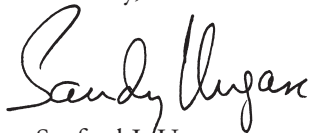
This is true of all of the projects and programs I have discussed in this letter, and indeed of all of Goucher's efforts and undertakings. We are blessed with a strong and close-knit community, and its vigorous support has enabled us to make great progress toward realizing our aims for the college. **As we work toward groundbreaking for the Athenaeum and the public launch of our capital campaign, I hope we can rely on our community to rally in support of the college once again.**

I have been encouraged by what I have seen and heard of late. The news of our study-abroad requirement—and the record-breaking incoming class it appears to have attracted—seem to have reinvented our entire community. Many students, parents, alumnae/i, and others have been quite vocal in expressing their enthusiasm for the new directions we are exploring.

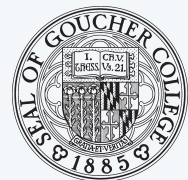
Just recently, a colleague told me of a chance encounter with a recent Goucher graduate now working on his master's degree at Johns Hopkins. Goucher had changed his life in many ways, this alumnus said, but by far the most transformative experience he had was a three-week intensive course in Cuba. It showed him just how connected he was to other people, regardless of distance, and it whetted his appetite for more travel and greater engagement with the world. He has since traveled to Ecuador on a program combining community service and mountaineering, and he's thinking about joining the Peace Corps. When he heard that Goucher had decided to require study abroad of all its students, he was ecstatic. "If every student who goes to Goucher has his or her view of the world changed the way mine was," he said, "Goucher will be making a tremendous difference every time it graduates a new class." The news also inspired, he said, a strong desire to reconnect with his alma mater, and to do whatever he could to help.

That is exactly how I hope many of you will respond to the continued good news from Goucher College. No matter what your connection to this institution, I hope you feel proud of what we are doing. I hope you can see how our efforts and initiatives are changing the world and touching the lives of many beyond those who currently live, learn, and work here. And I hope you will be inspired to get in touch with us and find out how you can be a part of our continued success.

Sincerely,



Sanford J. Ungar  
President



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*The work we are doing  
at Goucher is changing  
the world, and I hope  
you will consider how  
you can be a part of it.*