

2 Times GOUCHER

A Newsletter of the Goucher II Program | Spring 2009

Goucher II Welcomes New Students



Goucher II welcomed 12 new nontraditional students to the college this academic year. The students come from a range of backgrounds and interests, including two students who relocated from Massachusetts and Vermont to Baltimore to attend Goucher. The women and men who joined the Goucher II program transferred from colleges and universities that include the University of Virginia; the honors programs at Howard Community College, Arundel Community College, and the Community College of Baltimore at Essex; Sojourner Douglas College; West Virginia University; and Landmark College.

This is a very talented and interesting group of students who contribute to the diversity of the campus in so many ways. They came to Goucher to pursue majors in education, peace studies, communications, English, religion, foreign languages, math, dance, and psychology. One of the students attended law school at Wroclaw University in Warsaw, Poland; moved to the United States several years ago; and, after taking additional classes at CCBC/Essex, came

to Goucher to major in Russian. Another student, interested in dance, performed at Disney World and continues to perform in dinner theater while attending Goucher. Two have studied abroad—at Oxford University and in St. Petersburg. This is an ambitious group of students who not only want to earn degrees, but also to make a difference in the lives of others. One of the students is working on an independent study this semester to design a curriculum for sexual assault peer programs. Another student, who is pursuing a major/minor combination in Spanish and education, wants to use her education to work with and for abused women. In addition to a busy class schedule, another new student finds the time to play his trumpet.

Before the start of classes in the fall, there was a luncheon for the new Goucher II students, who shared their reasons for coming to Goucher. They talked about Goucher's excellent reputation and the outstanding faculty who work closely with students and serve as their mentors and advisers. They also talked about the small classes and the sense of community on the campus,

Goucher II News and Notes

Welcome to Goucher College

Goucher II is pleased to welcome the following students:

FALL 2008

Jessica Bonnie
Echo DeLa Vega
Jason Garland
Stuart Knazik
Rebecca Kuhn
Adrianna Shaney
Tomiko Shine
Amanda Taylor
Christina Horning

SPRING 2009

David Ford
Morgan Fox
Otto David

Message from the Director

I was very pleased to welcome a large group of new Goucher II students to the college this academic year. This is a very accomplished group whose talents, skills, and life experience enrich the entire Goucher community.

I have spent the past year visiting area community colleges and meeting with directors of the honors programs as well as Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society. The reception has been most positive and has raised the visibility of Goucher II on these campuses. A series of Goucher II information sessions has been scheduled at several of these schools during March and April, which will give interested students a chance to learn more about Goucher and Goucher II.

These are challenging times, and increasing numbers of adults are returning to school to complete their degrees or earn second degrees to change careers or advance professionally. Goucher II is ready to work with this population of adult students and support their efforts to attend college. Faculty advisers and career planning professionals work closely with "Goucher II's" to ensure that their years at Goucher are successful and to help them achieve their goals.

Exciting things have been happening at Goucher. Construction continues on the Athenaeum, the "centerpiece" of the campus that will house the new library, events space, an art gallery, a café, and a commuter lounge. Spring events include a program with David Plouffe, the campaign manager for President Obama's successful run for the White House, and Helen Thomas, the veteran correspondent regarded as the "dean" of the Washington press corps. In November, the President's Forum presented an evening with political pundit Arianna Huffington, which drew an overflowing crowd in Kraushaar Auditorium.

Goucher truly offers "an education without boundaries."

Amalia Fried Honick
Director, Goucher II

Meet the Goucher II Students: Stuart Knazik



Stuart Knazik

One doesn't have to look further for an "ambassador" for Goucher II than Stuart Knazik, a transfer student from the honors program at Howard Community College, where he earned his associate of arts degree in May 2008.

Reflecting on his first semester at Goucher this past fall, Stuart described the experience as "challenging" and "inspiring." Anxious to start his major, Stuart took four religion courses and offered the highest praise for his professors, whose approaches to teaching were "holistic" and who took an interest in his own personal and spiritual development.

Echo DeLa Vega

Echo DeLa Vega joined the Goucher community in the fall of 2008. She completed her A.A. degree at CCBC/Essex and selected Goucher based on its Spanish language program. Echo is hoping to combine a major in Spanish with a minor in education, and she is thinking about pursuing courses in special education. She is taking 15 credits this semester, doing fieldwork once a week at White Oak, a public school in Baltimore County, working part-time, and taking care of her two children!

He is spending part of the spring semester exploring the possibilities in peace studies, where he is taking both an introductory-level class and a course on Ghandi. In fact, Stuart said the Ghandi course is part of his reason for coming to Goucher. Stuart's interests include the era of the 1960s. He sees his interests in philosophy, art, and literature as an outgrowth of that period, which he describes as an "outburst of creativity and general social evolution."

When asked about his goals, Stuart says that the kind of education he is getting at Goucher is a goal in itself. He is focused on learning for its own sake. In the process he hopes to figure out his options for the future, which, he anticipates, is likely to include graduate school and perhaps working towards a doctorate.

While he described himself as something of an "ambassador" for Goucher II, Stuart doesn't see a large gap between himself and the rest of the students on campus. "I think young," he said. One of the biggest changes is attending a school where most of the students live in college housing. He finds it interesting to be part of the Goucher community and hopes to become more involved in campus activities.

Stuart says he is grateful that Goucher made it possible to for him to attend the college, further his education, and earn his degree.

It did not take long for Echo to feel at home at Goucher. She admits to some initial awkwardness at the beginning of each semester as a nontraditional student, but she then quickly blends in after just a few classes. She is grateful for her professors' support and understanding and appreciates the availability of the faculty to all students.

Asked what she likes best about Goucher, Echo is quick to answer: the 24/7 library schedule. She appreciates the availability of the library at all hours and sometimes takes

Internships

Internships have long been a hallmark of the liberal arts education at Goucher. Goucher was one of the pioneers in introducing internships into the undergraduate curriculum, and the college began to require each student to pursue an internship in the late 1970s. Linking classroom learning with experience in the real world enables students to create a connection between theory and practice. In consultation with their academic advisers and the Career Development Office, Goucher II students are very resourceful in securing interesting internships.

“Echo DeLa Vega” continued from page 2

her children with her while she works on class assignments. The children spend time on the third floor of the library, where there are some children’s books, while she finds a quiet and comfortable place to study. She is very enthusiastic about her professors, loves the Spanish program, and is very pleased with the learning opportunities at Goucher. The field-work she has done in education, in particular, which included a rotation at the Garrison Forest school in the fall, has made her more aware of the special skills she bring to the classroom as a parent. She also admits that the experience gives her more patience with her own children.

She takes advantage of campus programs and brought several members of her family to a program in February with Dr. Wangari Muta Maathi, the Kenyan environmental and political activist who, in 2004, was the first African woman to receive

the Nobel Peace Prize. She has also brought her children and several friends to the public viewing nights in the Hoffberger Observatory. Echo smiled broadly when she added how she loves the swings on the campus for her children, who are certainly learning their way around Goucher.

Echo says that returning to school was one of the hardest things she has ever done, even harder than the firefighting class she took several years to become a certified firefighter. While her academic schedule is stressful, she loves being at Goucher, discovering who she is and what she likes. Her advice to others who want to return to college and see Goucher II as an option? “Don’t give up.” Reflecting on her experience at Goucher since she started last fall, Echo affirms, “I love it.”



Echo DeLa Vega

Goucher II: An Investment in Yourself

“You can’t afford not to go back to school.” This is more than just a marketing tactic to encourage adults to return to college. The economic slump is showing a growing unemployment gap between those who have a degree and those who do not. Colleges and universities are experiencing a significant increase in the number of adult students returning to school either for retraining, second degrees, certificate programs, or completion of college degrees. The job shortages show no signs of abating, and going back to school is an increasingly more appealing option because it helps people to advance their careers, remain competitive in the job market, and increase their earnings in a demanding job market.

The U.S. Department of Education data shows that the average earnings for those who have bachelor’s degrees are 50% higher than the average earnings of those with only a high school diploma. Adult students are becoming the new majority among college students, and schools are eager to cater to returning students. There are options for making college more affordable, including employers who offer educational assistance, financial aid packages, merit scholarships, and

work-study opportunities. It is important to contact the financial aid office at the college to inquire about financial assistance.

As more adults consider whether now is the time to return to school, Goucher II, the nontraditional program at Goucher College, is an option for adult students older than age 24 to begin or complete their college degree. Goucher II has enrolled hundreds of students since it was first established in 1985.

The application process is designed specifically to respond to the needs, interests, and backgrounds of nontraditional students. Applicants have the opportunity to describe their prior college experience, their employment history, and life experiences that have influenced their decision to return to school. Goucher II applicants are not required to submit SAT or ACT scores, and a personal interview is required with the director of the program. Applicants who are accepted and enroll as Goucher II students matriculate into the regular undergraduate program.

Goucher II students enjoy access to the full range of resources available to the traditional students at

the college. They particularly enjoy the many opportunities to interact with the faculty, who serve as mentors and advisers to all their students.

The college offers excellent resources for returning students. The Career Development Office works with all students on everything from resumes to networking, finding internships, and assessing their suitability for different career paths. Goucher II alumnae/i find jobs in fields as varied as education, business, counseling, and advocacy work. They work as teachers in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, as therapists in mental health, and as business advisers and consultants. Graduates have studied for advanced degrees in law, library science, and art history.

Goucher II provides an opportunity for career advancement, new professional opportunities, and course preparation for graduate and professional schools. Goucher II students join a community of very motivated students who engage actively in their education, both on and off-campus. A Goucher education is a wonderful opportunity for personal and professional growth and an investment for the future.

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and they expressed their appreciation for a program that supports the return of nontraditional students to college. They also liked the choice of majors available at Goucher, the internship opportunities, community service options, and especially the study abroad programs. The opportunities to study abroad draw many students to Goucher, especially the three-week, three-credit programs—the Intensive Courses Abroad, or ICAs—which are an especially appealing option for Goucher II students. Goucher II students who participate in the ICAs have traveled to the Czech Republic, China, Mexico, India, and France. These programs offer Goucher II students the type of flexibility they need to return to school and take full advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities at the college.

The new students were also invited to participate in orientation activities suitable for transfer students as well as Goucher II students. In addition to an

orientation specifically for new transfer students, the group was invited to attend a Goucher II orientation, where new students met with the director of the program as well as with returning Goucher II students who shared their experiences, offered suggestions, and answered questions. Several also attended an evening event with John Pomfret, author of *Chinese Lessons: Five Classmates and the Story of the New China*, as part of the orientation activities for new Goucher students. Additional orientation programming included meetings with advisers as well as an overview of college requirements and academic programs, and registration. The new Goucher II students started their classes with great anticipation for a successful and fulfilling academic year. A warm welcome to all!

GOUCHER II WORKSHOP

The Goucher II program will hold a writing workshop on **Wednesday, April 8**. In coordination with Professor Arnie Sanders, director of the Writing Program, the workshop will be facilitated by Professor Mina Brunyate and Professor Elizabeth Leik of the Department of English.

Students will work interactively with the facilitators to hone their writing skills and share writing samples from essays and papers in progress.

GOUCHER COLLEGE

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